

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Uganda
troops
kill
newsmen

Four Western journalists were shot dead as "mercenaries" by Ugandan soldiers loyal to President Idi Amin, the Ugandan Foreign Ministry announced.

The four, two Swedes and two West Germans, had gone into Uganda from Kenya, hoping to pose as fishermen by crossing Lake Victoria in a boat and coming ashore near Jinja, where they were crushed.

A British businessman who escaped after a three-day wait on the Kenyan border, said Amin was preparing to make a last-minute stand, and that Kampala was a ghost town surrounded by Tanzanian troops. Page 3

Greece-Turkey tension eases

Tension between Greece and Turkey seems to be relaxing following secret talks between the two countries in Geneva. Negotiations are believed to be advancing on a "political document" which could include a non-aggression clause. Back Page

Peace pact row

Israel accused Egypt of violating the peace agreement signed last month by declaring that it might join a war started by Syria to recover the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Page 3

Grenada alert

Grenada's new revolutionary Government has put the island on a "national alert" following a new Marxist State Security ousted Prime Minister George Mitchell, who is organising an invading force of mercenaries.

Purge continues

Iran's bloody purge of members of the Shah's regime continued with the executions of another 11 people, including the former head of the Air Force and a Minister. Page 3. Tanks remain. Back Page

Chemicals threat

About 5,000 people have been evacuated from an 80-square-mile area near Cresswell, Florida, after the derailment of a goods train loaded with dangerous chemicals. Page 4

Pakistan denied

Pakistan's military Government has denied it is "completely false and baseless" claims by neighbouring Afghanistan that Pakistan's troops invaded four police posts across the border. Page 3

New offensive

More than 30,000 Vietnamese troops are involved in a new offensive in the north-west Cambodian against Khmer Rouge guerrillas loyal to ousted leader Pol Pot, according to diplomats in Bangkok.

Libel damages

David Stirling, founder of the Special Air Service, accepted "substantial damages" in settlement of a libel action over a Time Out magazine article which he felt suggested he had been cowardly during his military career.

Briefly

Sir Kenneth Newman, Chief Constable of the RUC, warned of a possible uprising in terrorism by the IRA.

Strikes by hotel and catering staff in Spain's Costa del Sol tourist resorts threaten havoc during the Easter holiday.

Spanish ivory chess piece of the late 18th-century sold at Christie's for \$33,000. Page 8.

Spastic Society has forecast an increase in the birth of severely handicapped babies.

BUSINESS

Equities
up 6.1;
gains
in Gilts

EQUITIES saw selective investment support following the Tory lead in weekend opinion polls and the FT 30-share index closed 6.1 higher at 531.4.

GILTS continued to rise with long gains up to a full point, although mediums were



restrained by the new day. Shorts closed a shade under the Government Securities index rate 0.26 to 75.32.

STERLING continued to improve, gaining 7.5 points to \$2.948. Its trade-weighted index was 67.6 (67.4).

DOLLAR's trade-weighted index increased to 85.4 from 85.6.

GOLD rose 37 to \$222 in London.

WALL STREET was 1.8 lower at 275.87 near close.

UNITED AIRLINES agreed to pay \$100 million for American Express' 40 per cent of its company, which prepares and distributes salad dressings and soups. Back Page

POST OFFICE will pegged phone charges until at least the end of the year because of unusual profits through increased business and higher efficiency. Back Page

DECCA has claimed that the trial division of the U.S. Court of Claims has recommended that the U.S. Government should pay the company \$3.4m (£1.8m) compensation for infringing a radio navigation patent.

U.S. OIL, millionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt, plans to ask a Dallas court for a \$2bn award against British Petroleum which has considerable assets in the U.S. Page 7.

IMPORTED CARS won a record 55.24 per cent of the UK new car market in March, and made the deepest ever penetration for the first quarter with 53.97 per cent of the sales.

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL Industries plans to reduce jobs in its fibres division by about 450 a year between now and the mid-1980s. Page 7.

IMPORT BAN on maincrop (old) potatoes has been lifted by Britain following a recent ruling by the European Court of Justice. Page 39.

COMPANIES

BLACKWOOD HODGE, the earthmoving equipment group with overseas interests, reports pre-tax profits up from £16.5m to £18.2m in 1978. Page 29.

GLAXO HOLDINGS, the drugs, food and medical equipment group, saw pre-tax profits drop from £40.3m to £36.5m for the six months to December 31, although trading profit rose by 2.2 per cent. Page 28.

ROWNTREE MACKINTOSH, the chocolate and confectionery group, reports a pre-tax profit rise of 3 per cent to £45.1m for 1978 on a 20 per cent gain in sales at £563m. Page 28 and Lex.

British Land ... 78 + 34
Brown & Jackson ... 500 + 54
Dorada ... 98 + 6
Edwards (L.C.) ... 58 + 6
Gaskell (Bacup) ... 215 + 38
GEC ... 411 + 2
GKN ... 27.6xd + 84
Hamro Ltd ... 580 + 85
Harris (P.) ... 138 + 13
MFI Furniture ... 375 + 25
Magelia ... 240 + 20
Office & Elect. ... 160xd + 144
Pearl Assurance ... 274 + 12
Pilkington ... 387 + 17

FALLS:

Glaxo ... 586 - 22
Huntleigh ... 79 - 5
Huntley ... 165 - 10
Hammersley ... 274 + 12
Robe River ... 70 - 5

RISES:

CONTENTS

Woolworth facing \$1.125bn takeover bid from Brascan

BY JOHN WYLES IN NEW YORK

F. W. Woolworth was the target yesterday of a potential \$1.125bn (£537m) takeover bid by Brascan, a diversified Canadian corporation which recently sold a large part of its interests in Brazil.

Brascan's announcement, which was not preceded by any contact with the Woolworth board, plunged the U.S. company's top management into a series of intensive meetings aimed at thrashing out a response.

No reaction was forthcoming by early afternoon but the initial judgment on Wall Street was that the \$35 a share tender offer would be highly attractive to many Woolworth shareholders.

Adding to the drama of the occasion was the fact that Brascan's announcement was followed within minutes by a disclosure from Edper Equities of Toronto that it was considering making a \$32.6m (£136m) purchase of 11.7m Brascan Class A shares which would give it 50 per cent of Brascan's voting stock.

Edper, which is two-thirds owned by Mr Peter and Edward Bronfman of Toronto and one third by the Patino Group of London and Amsterdam, apparently informed Brascan that the offer was being considered last Thursday. Mr. J. Trevor Eyon, Edper's counsel,

if it were successful, the bid would be the largest U.S. retailing deal since Mobil Oil bought the Marcor department store and packaging company for \$1.5bn in 1973. The offer would yield a 35 per cent premium on Woolworth's closing price last Friday of \$26, which was at the very top end of the share's trading range for the last three years.

The stock did not open for trading yesterday and there was some suspicion on Wall Street of the fact that Woolworth was the second most heavily traded share on the New York Stock Exchange on Friday.

As an operator of 5,788 stores worldwide, Woolworth's last year recorded earnings of \$130.3m or \$4.34 per share. Brascan says in its offering document that it had foreseen the sale of the Brazilian company.

Continued on Back Page

A lively centenary Page 33

Lex Back Page

HUDSON ACCEPTS THOMSON BID

Hudson's Bay Company has accepted a third, \$640m bid from the Thomson family.

but the Canadian Government is trying to stall any deal.

Back and Page 27.

Saudis to cut oil output by 1m barrels a day

BY KEVIN DUNN, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

SAUDI ARABIA is to cut crude oil production by 1m barrels a day, Mr. Abdul Aziz al-Turki, the deputy Petroleum Minister, said yesterday.

The reduction, in response to the rising crude output from Iran, will bring Saudi production back in line with its original ceiling of 8.5m barrels a day.

The move is almost certain to guarantee that crude supplies on the world market will remain tight for the rest of the year and leaves little chance of any of the members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries reducing their present surcharges later in the year.

There is a growing belief in the oil industry that Saudi Arabia will also introduce a general surcharge on all its crude output soon, a day of which had already been set since the OPEC meeting in Geneva last month.

Iran's delay in introducing extra surcharges has left it isolated among OPEC members and caused confusion in world oil markets, where each producer has been left free to

set its own price level.

Kuwait, added to the uncertainty yesterday by adding an extra increase of 60 cents to its crude to its existing surcharge of \$1.20 a barrel. This brings the price of its main export crude, rather heavier than most of the Gulf export grades, to \$15.79 a barrel compared with \$12.22 in the last quarter of 1978.

At the OPEC meeting in Geneva last month, members reached an informal understanding to lower their levels of production as Iranian output increased.

The move by Kuwait to demand a basic surcharge of \$1.80 a barrel could now start a leap-frogging process—as happened in the first quarter among OPEC members, as producers of lighter crude try to re-establish a quality differential.

Abu Dhabi and Qatar set the \$1.80 surcharge level for the second quarter when they increased the prices for their lighter crudes last week.

Continued on Back Page

BL strike call brings out 3,000

BY ALAN PIKE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST 3,000 skilled workers in BL's car factories yesterday began unofficial strike action over demands for improved pay differentials and separate negotiating rights.

The number involved is about the same as in the 1977 toolroom dispute, the most serious strike since BL came into public ownership.

This time, however, the strikers include groups of electricians, patternmakers and other craftsmen as well as toolroom workers.

Although more than half of the company's 8,500 skilled men are still at work the number of strikers is sufficiently large to present BL with another serious problem. Mr. Roy Fraser, chairman of the unofficial BL United Craft Organisation which is leading the strike, yesterday set up a headquarters in Oxford and began efforts to persuade more

skilled workers to join

the dispute.

At a meeting with BL management yesterday union leaders were assured that the company's development plans over the next five years would not be affected by any eventual collaboration agreement with Honda of Japan. Design and development of the LC10 middle range saloon would go ahead.

Union leaders are concerned about how BL proposes to end any collaboration arrangement with Honda once its own new

vehicles are on the market.

Now

Further gains for sterling

By Peter Riddell,
Economics Correspondent

STERLING MADE further gains yesterday against all major currencies including a generally firm dollar.

The trade-weighted index, measuring the value of sterling against a basket of currencies, rose 0.2 to 67.6, its highest level for three years.

This followed a jump of 0.7 in this index on Friday after the Bank of England stopped intervening on a large scale to check the rise.

Foreign exchange dealers said that sterling business was in both directions, and that trading was generally quieter than last week.

Consequently the Bank was able to remain on the sidelines.

APPRECIATION OF STERLING (percentage rise)		
Since mid-1978	Since end-1978	Since Mar.
Dollar	12.5	2.6
Deutsche Mark	3.6	7.4
French Franc	9.0	7.3
Yen	18.5	13.3
Trade-weighted index	9.9	5.6
		4.8

The market believes the first real test of the non-interventionist stance will come if the pound threatens to rise well above \$2.10.

The response to the change in official tactics has so far been similar to what happened in November 1977 when the pound was allowed to float freely. Then, as now, an initial sharp appreciation was followed by a small rise as two-way trading developed.

The pound has risen not only against the D-mark and the Japanese yen but also against the strengthening dollar. Last night sterling closed 75 points up at \$2.0940 after a day's high of \$2.0955.

The dollar has recently recovered strongly against all major currencies except the pound. The dollar rose yesterday to DM1.9045 compared with DM1.8940 on Friday. This represents a rise of 4.6 per cent since the end of last year.

Over the same period the dollar's trade-weighted index, as calculated by the Bank of England, has

EUROPEAN NEWS

Bonn, Bundesbank urged not to endanger growth

BY ADRIAN DICKS IN BONN

THE West German Government and the Bundesbank should not be scared by the prospect of higher prices into taking restrictive measures that might endanger growth in 1980, a panel of independent economists recommended yesterday.

In their spring report on the economic outlook, the five leading West German economic research institutes said there should be no difficulty in achieving the goal of 4 per cent real growth of gross national product in 1980, despite the effects of last winter's steel stoppage and exceptionally bad weather.

Prices during the first half of this year are likely to be on average 3.5 per cent up on a year ago, and during the second half, 4 per cent higher. This compares with a rise of 2.6 per cent for 1978.

The recovery is still gaining ground, according to the institute's joint working party, with increasing signs that new investment is being sustained by a more optimistic business climate, rather than by the

effects of official policies alone. Unemployment should decline to about 900,000, or 4 per cent, despite a bigger increase in the working population than in 1978.

Prices would not again jump as sharply as they had last winter after the shortfall in Iranian oil exports, the institutes predicted. But they left no doubt that "the period of falling inflation rates is at an end" for West Germany.

The main reasons for this included the rapid increase in money supply, the improved sales outlook for most industries, and the bottlenecks felt for some time in the building sector.

Perhaps the most significant reason was the blunting of import competition, following the more stable outlook on foreign exchange markets since measures were taken to stabilise the dollar last November and the European Monetary System was set up.

While prices of crude oil or other raw materials might not rise significantly, the time was now past when West Germany could compensate for such price

pains to stress the recent close contact between Herr Schmidt and Mr. Carter, particularly on the energy issue, on which the two have not always seen eye-to-eye.

Mr. Carter is understood to have informed Herr Schmidt of details of his new energy saving measures (which were welcomed by Bonn) before they were announced.

The Chancellor—at present visiting South America—has already passed on to Mr. Carter information about his talks last week with Brazilian leaders.

After those talks, Brazil and West Germany announced they planned to carry out in full their nuclear accord of 1975, an agreement strongly criticised by the U.S. on the grounds it could lead to further nuclear weapons proliferation.

The West Germans believe energy is emerging as one of the most urgent issues for the Tokyo summit.

This is partly because of the

details of Herr Schmidt's visit are still being worked out, but it is understood the Chancellor will be receiving an honour at a U.S. university and making a speech.

West German officials are at

Austria delays decision on EMS

BY DAVID MARSH

A DECISION on whether Austria will become formally associated with the European Monetary System (EMS) will probably not be made until after the Austrian and British general elections next month, according to Dr. Hannes Androsch, the Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Finance Minister.

In an interview in Vienna at the weekend, Dr. Androsch said Austria would continue with its autonomous policy of linking the schilling to the Deutsche Mark and hence to the other currencies in the EMS. This was in line with the association that Austria had maintained with the European currency snake.

Austria, however, would also like to put its relationship with the EMS on to a more formal footing by taking up some sort of "observer status" he said.

Dr. Androsch said that no one in Austria now doubted that the hard schilling policy was the right one. The close link with the Deutsche Mark—which he described as "flexible, not slavish"—had helped to improve real incomes and spurred necessary structural changes in the economy.

Austrian inflation last year was down to 3.6 per cent and Dr. Androsch said that, despite the oil price increase, he hoped the figure could be reduced further in 1979 to below 3.5 per cent. This would roughly match the German inflation rate. Austria planned to borrow abroad this year no more than was necessary to offset the current account deficit, which Dr. Androsch thought would be less than the latest official forecast of Sch 15bn (£252m).

Since Sweden and Norway—two other possible candidates for some kind of link with the EMS—were waiting for Britain's attitude towards the EMS to become clearer, the forthcoming UK general election provided another reason not to hurry matters.

Strikes disrupt Spanish resorts

BY ROBERT GRAHAM IN MADRID

Tourists on the Costa del Sol are facing an Easter week of disruptions, as a result of strikes by workers in hotels and restaurants in protest at the conduct of wage negotiations. The Hotel Owners' Association and union officials yesterday gave differing versions of the effect of the industrial action.

A spokesman for the hotel owners told the Financial Times that the strike was having only a limited impact. He said that 80 per cent of hotels, bars and restaurants were operating with no bookings cancelled.

However, a spokesman for the

main union, the Communist-controlled Confederation of Workers' Commissions, said the strike was 80 per cent effective around Marbella and Estepona, but in the Malaga area on Sunday, police had made several arrests and forcibly opened some establishments.

The hotel owners maintain that the strike is being conducted deliberately in Easter week to obtain the maximum effect. They also say that, because wage deals had earlier reached an impasse and a Government settlement had been imposed, they had no new offer

to make.

The unions nevertheless claim that the Government settlement had been hurriedly imposed before they had been able to strike, so depriving them of a major bargaining counter. They believe the imposed settlement will be illegal.

The settlement centres on a pay offer of Pta 25,000 (£178) a month minimum wage, but excluding new social security benefits, which the unions want included. This is the third year running that Costa del Sol hotel workers have taken strike action.

The Chinese answer to the problem comes in two parts.

China's army, according to NATO observers, has progressed little since the Korean war almost 30 years ago, and its technology remains that of the 1950s. The arms Peking seeks to replace are the obsolete T-34 tanks and MiG-17/19 aircraft dating from before the split with Moscow, which would bring the PLA into the early 1960s.

The present generation of weaponry, with its emphasis on electronics and lasers, is something to which China and its 3.5m-strong regular army may not be able to aspire until

toward the end of the century. At the heart of China's problems in developing an army that would deny the USSR its present overwhelming military initiative along the Sino-Soviet border lies the Cultural Revolution of 10 years ago. Its dismantling of the education system has meant that China at present has no emerging generation of scientists and technologists.

"Put at its simplest," comments one NATO-based observer, "They are hard put to man an old-fashioned military radar installation, let alone a modern electronic surveillance system."

The Chinese answer to the problem comes in two parts. Peking is conscious of the fact that even were it not missing a whole generation of technical cadres to officer an updated army, buying armaments inevitably keeps a country up to 15 years behind those countries that develop them.

Disputes threaten pollution control

By BRIJ KHANDRA IN GENEVA

SUGGESTIONS for new international measures to combat pollution have become embroiled in major disputes between Eastern and Western European nations, and between the Nordic countries and other members of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Export prospects are judged highly favourable in Western Europe and the OPEC countries other than Iran, while demand for West German goods from the U.S. is likely to weaken.

The report expresses understanding for the priority given by the Bundesbank to sounding what it recently called "a stage one alarm" against inflation.

But the authors believe that maintenance of a steady course will prove more beneficial than any attempt to introduce an anti-cyclical monetary policy whose impact might well be felt in practice at precisely the wrong point in the cycle.

The institutes do not recommend any specific policy measures, but see the consolidation of public deficits through a reduction of the borrowing requirement in relation to GNP as a more pressing concern.

Fears over Italy's economic revival

By PAUL BETTS IN ROME

MR. ALAN WHITMORE, European director of the International Monetary Fund, is back in Rome on one of his periodic visits to review the state of the Italian economy. But in sharp contrast with Italy's painstaking negotiations for a \$530m loan with the IMF two years ago, the Italian monetary authorities have no intention of asking for new support from the fund, at this stage at least.

During the past two years, there has been a spectacular improvement in the economy with an overall balance of payments surplus of nearly £6000m (£3.45bn) last year, continuing stability of the lira, a substantial increase in foreign exchange reserves, and a reduction of inflation from levels of more than 20 per cent to an annual rate of 12 per cent last year.

The proposals for energy and transport conferences failed to make headway against continuing Western opposition.

At the centre of the disputes is a three-year-old Soviet proposal calling for separate "pan-European congresses" to discuss environment, energy and transport in the ECE region, which comprises all European countries, the Soviet Union, the U.S. and Canada.

The proposals for energy and transport conferences failed to make headway against continuing Western opposition.

At the weekend, official figures indicated a sustained

recovery of the labour market, wage and shorter working hours demands by trade unions were incompatible with the general target of containing the rise of labour costs, and prevent any real increases in wages over the next three years.

At the same time, labour unrest is spreading, eloquently reflecting the intransigent attitude of the labour rank-and-file in the present renewal of a series of three-year national labour contracts involving some 10m workers in the public and private sectors.

The current round of wage negotiations has been further soured by the country's general election campaign, which increasing risks becoming focused on the key issue of whether or not the Communist Party should directly participate in any new government after the general election.

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being undermined by its more militant base, which is showing no signs of accepting its leadership's more moderate stand on wages. For their part, the employers are divided in that representatives of the public sector industries, under pressure from the main political parties, are anxious to reach a settlement with the unions before the elections, while private employers are adopting a much harder line.

There also appear to be divisions between employers in large industries and representatives of small and medium-size companies. The former appear prepared to compromise on wages, while remaining intransigent on other labour requests involving shorter working hours, and a greater role for the unions in future investment plans, particularly for the depressed south of the country. But small and medium-size industrialists are seemingly firmly opposed to any real increases in wages but appear willing to compromise

Padua police round up terrorist suspects

By RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE Italian police have carried out a sweeping round-up of leading terrorist suspects, above all in the violence-ridden university city of Padua.

And-terrorist police carried out the first stage of a long-prepared operation at the weekend by arresting 15 top suspects, and issuing warrants for a dozen more on their wanted list.

The most spectacular raids have been in Padua. Among those taken into custody there was Sig. Antonio Negri, a lecturer at the political science faculty of the university, and considered the intellectual leader of the "Autonomia Operaia" (Workers' Freedom) extreme Left-wing organisation.

Although Padua magistrates stressed yesterday that the police swoop had been long prepared, its timing looks anything but fortuitous. It has been widely feared that the Italian general election campaign, full of public appearances by top politicians, would offer tempting targets

for a repeat of the Muro outrage.

In the city itself, where in the past three weeks two Communists sympathetic to the Red Brigades have been violently attacked by extremists, the atmosphere is said to be very tense.

If these insistent reports are borne out, it would mean that close links exist between the Red Brigades and the so-called "autonomists" groups, which are strongly rooted in the turbulent and frustrated world of Italian student life.

Meanwhile, police yesterday announced the capture of Chilean-born Sr. Juan Palaciano Soto in the centre of Rome. Wanted for some two years, Sr. Soto is alleged to be a leader of the "Azione Rivoluzionaria" (Revolutionary Action) terrorist group.

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The European Commission has sent two senior officials to the U.S. to investigate the Three Mile Island accident. It announced in Brussels yesterday.

EEC Environment Ministers were told by Sig. Lorenzo Natali, EEC Commissioner responsible for nuclear safety, that after the investigation, a further assessment would be made.

The Committee on Nuclear Safety would examine evidence on the Harrisburg accident with a view to proposing joint action by the Nine of nuclear safety by procedures, Sig. Natali explained.

Oil is already in extremely short supply. The government says any shortage, because of the Iranian crisis should only be of the order of 5 per cent but Labour spokesmen have accused the oil companies of stockpiling supplies in the hope of making a profit if a price application is granted.

Diesel oil seems almost unobtainable and farming organisations warned today that farmers might not be able to sow if the situation is not remedied soon.

Mostek, the U.S. microelectronics company, formally announced yesterday that it is planning to invest £22m in a new plant in the Republic of Ireland, writes Max Wilkinson.

The Irish Development Authority would not disclose how much it is contributing in direct subsidy for the project.

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Belgian reactor move reversed

By GILES MERRITT IN BRUSSELS

THE BELGIAN Government yesterday pushed through a royal decree invalidating the decision taken by the mayor of Huy, to close one of the country's biggest nuclear power stations.

Belgium is now mulling over the implications of the Tihange affair, in which municipal ordinances were used to order the immediate shutdown of a reactor on the River Meuse.

On Sunday, an emergency meeting of Belgian Cabinet Ministers decided to reverse the Tihange closure. King Baudouin yesterday signed the royal decree, understood to be one of the few legal instruments capable of invalidating a mayoral decision.

It is unlikely that the Tihange incident has yet ended. The technicalities of the situation that led M. Rubin to order a

shutdown are still under dispute. The Tihange complex has a history of alleged radioactive leakage.

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Rhodesia polling starts today

BY TONY HAWKINS IN SALISBURY

VOTING in Rhodesia's Bulawayo and one in Umtali-majority rule elections starts today with four contests on the whites-only voters' roll between supporters of Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front and little-known independent candidates.

Under the 1979 constitution, agreed between the ruling Rhodesian Front and the domestic nationalist parties, 28 seats in the 100-seat assembly have been reserved for whites. In 16 of those seats Rhodesian Front candidates, including Mr Smith, have been returned unopposed.

In a further eight seats, the electoral procedure provides for a run-off between 16 white candidates all of them nominated by the Front, in indirect elections in which the 72 black MPs and 20 directly-elected white MPs will constitute an electoral college. The run-off vote is to be held next month.

This leaves four contested white seats for which about 23,000 white, coloured (mixed blood) and Asian voters are due to vote today.

A relatively low poll is expected in the four constituencies—two in Salisbury, one in

Umtali, one in Bulawayo and one in Umtali.

With the Smith candidates expected to win easily, thereby giving the Front all 28 white seats.

Voting for the 72 black seats starts next Tuesday with polling booths staying open until Saturday evening. Nearly 3m voters, all but 140,000 of them black, are entitled to vote.

A massive security operation is in operation with most white men aged between 18 and 50 called up to counter threats from the Nkomo-Mugabe Patriotic Front to attack the 2,000 polling booths and to disrupt the poll.

As polling approaches, officials are increasingly confident of a good turnout. A month ago, officials were saying they would be satisfied with 40 per cent, but they are now talking confidently of securing a poll of between 50 per cent and 60 per cent.

Voting will be on a proportional representation basis for the 72 black seats. The country has been divided into eight provinces, each of which has been allocated a stated number of seats. Within each province, seats will be allocated in proportion to the votes cast for each party.

With Mr. Joshua Nkomo and Mr. Robert Mugabe, his party may also attract a significant white vote.

Chief Ndiweni is the standard bearer for the Ndebele people, whose popular leader is Joshua Nkomo. If there is a good turnout in Nkomo country in western Rhodesia, Chief Ndiweni is likely to be the main beneficiary. A more likely prospect is a very low poll.

It is conceivable, though unlikely, that Mr. Smith's Rhodesian Front, with 28 seats, will be the largest single party and as such entitled to claim the post of Prime Minister in the national unity Government that is to be established next month.

A substantial victory for Bishop Muzorewa is more likely. But in terms of last November's coalition agreement, the first black Prime Minister is required to allocate Cabinet posts to every party that wins at least five seats.

Thus Mr. Smith, with 28 seats, is certain of five Cabinet posts in the first majority-rule Government, despite the fact that the Bishop could well emerge from the poll with an overall majority and in no need of a coalition.

Chief Chirau and Chief Ndiweni are unknown quantities. Chief Chirau believes he is picking up support from younger blacks who favour an all-party conference, since the Chief, despite his broadly conservative policies, is the one domestic black politician most committed to all-party talks

Western journalists 'shot as mercenaries' in Uganda

NAIROBI.—The Ugandan Foreign Ministry said yesterday that four foreigners had been captured and shot dead in Uganda. This appears to confirm a report that four Western journalists had been executed.

The Ministry's statement said: "Four foreign mercenaries, uniformed and armed, have been shot dead after coming into Uganda in a boat over Lake Victoria."

The announcement came the day after reports that two Swedish and two German journalists had been captured and executed in Kampala after trying to sneak into Uganda by boat from Kenya.

Meanwhile, troops loyal to President Idi Amin were reported fighting back with new strength yesterday against invading Tanzanians and Ugandan rebels in the southern suburbs of the capital.

Residents said more troops and armoured cars were moving through the Ugandan capital than had been seen since army units mutinied and deserted several weeks ago in the face of the invasion.

Agencies

Miners walk out after riot at new S. Africa gold mine

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN JOHANNESBURG

ALMOST 4,000 black miners workers at South Africa's newest gold mine, Anglo American's R183m (£105m) Elandsrand operation, stopped work yesterday on the eve of the mine's official opening, following a weekend riot.

Several hundred miners went on the rampage on Sunday night, smashing furniture and windows, and attempting to set buildings on fire in the new "model" compound for migrant workers. Hostel buildings, a changing room, a shop and a bar were damaged, as well as a computer controlled clocking-in machine at the pit head.

The riot is highly embarrassing to Anglo American, not only because today's opening was to be a ceremony with hundreds of guests, but also because Elandsrand has been a model operation. The estimated R183m capital cost is R17m within the R200 estimate, and the mine was brought into production last December, more than two years ahead of schedule.

Only 108 of the mine's 4,080 black employees reported for

work yesterday morning, and afterwards several hundred held a protest meeting on the mine's football field. Police said they were "fairly peaceful but in a defiant mood."

There was no immediately apparent cause of the riot, the company spokesman said, although reports from the mine, near Carletonville on the West Rand, said the men were in dispute over their bonuses. By not reporting for work yesterday the men are automatically in breach of their contracts and run the risk of being summarily sent home to their tribal homelands.

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Ohira gains in Japan's local elections

By RICHARD MANSON IN TOKYO

MR. MASAYOSHI OHIRA, Japan's Prime Minister, appears to have strengthened his hand considerably in local elections which drew back into the conservative-centrist political fold the governorships of Japan's two largest cities, Tokyo and Osaka, after years of reformist control.

A patchwork of coalitions put together by Mr. Ohira's ruling Liberal Democratic Party swept conservative and middle-of-the-road candidates to victory in all 15 prefectural

governorships at stake in

nationwide local elections on Sunday. It was the LDP's

first political test since Mr. Ohira took office in December last year.

More important to Mr. Ohira, perhaps, was the solid showing in elections to local assemblies, where the LDP gained and the leading opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party, lost a large number of seats—mostly to the Japan Communist Party which managed to recover to the levels of four years ago.

The results set the stage now for Mr. Ohira to dissolve the present Diet (parliament) and to call for the first general election since the LDP suffered a serious setback late in 1976. It is expected an election will take place in October or November.

The gubernatorial races showed all the signs of Mr. Ohira's greatest asset—an ability to draw opposing groups together. His consensus-seeking style (pursued with enormous patience, his other great virtue) led to joint support of candidates by the LDP, the Buddhist-oriented Komite and the middle-of-the-road Democratic-Socialists (DSP).

That information is supported by other reports available in Pakistan and from Kabul. The Turaki Government appears to be stretched severely in these areas.

PAKISTAN has denied as "completely false and baseless" allegations by Afghanistan that Pakistani troops raided four police posts across the border on Saturday.

The denial came amid continuing reports of fighting in Afghanistan's mountainous eastern provinces of Kunar, Nuristan and Paktia. The alleged incident coincided with a visit to Kabul by General Alexeyevich, the Soviet Union's First Deputy Minister of Defence.

According to Radio Kabul, a

large number of Pakistani

troops crossed into Paktia in the guise of Afghans and suffered heavy losses when they tried to

attack the police posts.

Pakistan's Foreign Affairs

Ministry yesterday described

the allegation as "preposterous."

It pointed out that Pakistan had a policy of good neighbourliness and had not retaliated when Afghanistan shelled Pakistani territory, nor when its air force violated Pakistan's airspace.

It is suspected here that units

Israel accuses Egyptians of peace treaty violation

By DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL yesterday accused Egypt of violating the spirit and the letter of the peace agreement signed last month between the two countries by declaring that it might join a war started by Syria to recover the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

This follows reports that Dr. Mustapha Khalil, the Egyptian Premier, said that if Syria attempted to liberate the Golan Heights this would be considered a defensive war and that the joint Arab defence pact to which Israel is a signatory could be invoked.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman at his regular briefing in Jerusalem yesterday said that if these reports were accurate, it would be cause for concern in the U.S. to clarify in Cairo the implications of the latest turn of events.

The spokesman noted that Dr. Khalil had called on Arab oil producers to use their economic power to force Israel to withdraw from other occupied Arab territories. He also pointed out that Dr. Boutros Ghali, the Minister of State at the Foreign Ministry, had said that Egypt

might give assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The spokesman expressed surprise that Egypt should be making such statements before the peace treaty had even been ratified in the Egyptian Parliament.

He did not know if the development would lead to a delay in the exchange of the instruments of ratification, now scheduled for next Monday.

But he said that Israel would take "political and diplomatic steps as required," without specifying what those steps might be.

Since there is no constant daily contact between Egypt and Israel, Jerusalem may ask the U.S. to clarify in Cairo the implications of the latest turn of events.

Roger Matthews reports from Cairo: The Egyptian people are to be asked to vote on the peace treaty with Israel, but it is not clear whether this will be arranged before the instruments of ratification have been exchanged. President Sadat is

expected to announce a referendum later this week when he makes another speech outlining plans for introducing "greater democracy" and "eliminating all the causes of complaint by the people."

Cairo newspapers said yesterday that the constitution would be amended to allow for the creation of more political parties. It would also provide for the Press to become "the fourth power in the state" while clearly defining the "values of society" to which every citizen will be committed.

Leaflets expressing opposition to the peace treaty with Israel and Egypt's growing economic dependence on the U.S. have been seized by police during a raid on the offices of the small Left-wing Unionist Progressive Party which has two Members of Parliament. Officials said the leaflets aimed at inciting the people against the Government by casting doubts on President Sadat's efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace.

UAE troops to leave Lebanon

By Iman Hijazi in Beirut
THE United Arab Emirates have decided to withdraw the UAE battalion which has been serving with the Arab League deterrent force in Lebanon.

Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan, President of the UAE, told Dr. Selim al-Hoss, the Lebanese Prime Minister, of the decision in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Dr. Hoss is touring Gulf states to seek Arab support for Lebanon and financial aid for its reconstruction.

The UAE unit of about 600 men is expected to leave by April 28 when the present mandate of the Arab force expires. Saudi Arabia withdrew its 1,200 soldiers last month. The recall of the UAE contingent will leave Syria as the sole contributor to the Arab force, which was set up 24 years ago after the Lebanese civil war.

The force mandate is extended by the Arab League for three months until July 28. But the extension may not be sufficient because Lebanon's armed forces will not be ready to take over law-and-order duties throughout the country by that date.

Britain's overnight revolution.

Speedlink

British Rail's new air-braked wagons are a far cry from the freight trains of old.

And the service isn't called Speedlink for nothing.

The trains run at speeds of up to 75mph, travelling overnight between main centres in time for start-of-work deliveries next day.

And their movements are continuously monitored by our computers.

Speedlink is capable of carrying a far larger share of the country's goods traffic.

Which is something all of us would appreciate.

 British Rail

The backbone of the nation

AMERICAN NEWS

Fed urged to raise U.S. interest rates

BY JOHN WYLES IN NEW YORK

PUBLIC AND private pressure on the Federal Reserve Board, despite reports about possible interest rate increases, still pressure the Fed to boost U.S. interest rates. The underlying state of the economy appears to be growing, following indications that unexpected strength in the economy is being taken by the Fed, taking the plunge.

Government figures published on Friday showed that unemployment remained at its lowest level for four years in March and that consumer credit expanded at a 14 per cent annual rate in February. Some private economists argue that various leading indicators, including the money supply and a drop in housing starts, are already pointing to a move to raise interest rates.

The recently survey of the National Association of Purchasing Management is the latest piece of evidence of a stronger than expected economy. According to the survey new orders, production inventories, sales and employment all point to the Fed to tighten credit "until significant progress has been made in reducing inflation."

The Senate banking committee has issued a report which is said to be supported by Mr. Michael Blumenthal, Treasury Secretary, calling on the Fed to tighten credit "until

Some 84 per cent of the Association's members acknowledge paying more for materials, up from 70 per cent in March.

The Fed's open market committee is to meet to decide its interest rate strategy for the coming month amid reports that it will be urged by the Administration to boost short-term rates. The Fed has not altered its target for the Fed funds rate, the dominant short-term interest rate in the money markets, since last December, partly, it is believed, to try not to drive the economy into a recession.

But the strength of the dollar and hopes that the Administration's anti-inflation pay and price guidelines would start to rein in the rate of price increases have also affected the Fed's stance. In addition, the Central Bank has witnessed a virtual halt in the growth of the U.S. money supply and has therefore had even less reason to firm up interest rates.



THE CHEMICAL TRAIN after being derailed at Crestview. One wagon, containing carbolic acid, caught fire after an explosion, setting two other wagons alight. Another wagon carrying sulphur sent up dense yellow fumes.

Poisonous cloud threatens towns

CIVIL DEFENCE forces stood by yesterday to evacuate thousands more people from towns in the path of a poisonous cloud following the wreckage of a goods train, loaded with dangerous chemicals and derailed near Crestview, North Florida, at 10.15pm on Saturday.

Some 5,000 people have already been moved to safety from homes and camp sites in an 80-square-mile area surrounding the disaster.

Thirteen of 30 chemical-laden wagons left the tracks as the Louisville and Nashville train crossed a trestle bridge over the Yellow River three miles from Crestview.

Yesterday, officials were watching closely for any change in wind direction, which would mean putting further evacuation plans into effect.

The length of the dispute is

the extent that its refusal to

endorse a settlement signifi-

cantly above its guidelines is

stiffening the trucking em-

ployers' resistance.

Police said the chemicals carried in the train included ammonia, acetone, alcohol, sulphur and carbolic acid.

One wagon, believed to be carrying carbolic acid, had exploded and caught fire, setting two other wagons ablaze. One of the other wagons carrying sulphur began pouring dense yellow fumes into the air. The cause of the derailment was not immediately known.

"Chlorine gas is starting to smell pretty bad-burning noses," a Civil Defence worker stationed near Crestview, North Florida, said.

"On a scale of one-to-10, this accident rates pretty high," Mr. George Moen, chief of the Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous spills section in Atlanta, added.

Several accidents have occurred on this stretch of rail line in recent years. Just over 13 months ago, a tanker wagon exploded, sending clouds of chlorine gas over the countryside, killing eight people.

Agencies

been injured. He was taken to hospital for observation after inhaling dangerous fumes while trekking through the woods.

The plan confirms that the present oil production of 1.5m b/d will be levered up to 2.5m b/d in 1980 and that export earnings will be held up to \$5bn a year until 1982 to avoid overheating the economy. The valves will not be opened up to satisfy the needs of countries like the U.S. before 1982.

It is the Government's intention to use the oil revenue to widen greatly the structure of the economy, so its dependence on oil revenue will drop from 35 per cent of total exchange earnings in 1982 to 14 per cent in 1980.

The plan for the years 1979-82, when the term of office of President Lopez Portillo ends, embodies this thinking.

It is the first coherent policy on how the oil wealth should be used and, also for the first time, it goes beyond the period of an incumbent administration and envisages some industrial strategy up until 1990.

Full effect

Previous economic plans paralleled the stagflation presidential terms of office. The Government, now feels that planning has to be made on a longer basis if the full effect of the petrodollars on the country's economy is to be properly gauged, and the risk of going down the inflationary road of other oil-producing countries, like Venezuela, is to be avoided.

This implies that the next government may well follow the guidelines of the plan, although such things are unpredictable in Mexico.

It is recognised by the Government that unemployment in Mexico — population 80m — is the "most important obstacle to be overcome." But it is hoping that by using the oil money to expand industry rather than to tackle the pressing lack of homes, schools and medical services, this will lead to the creation of an increasing number of jobs. Unemployment and underemployment are estimated at 40 per cent.

The plan predicts an average 7 per cent per year GDP growth rate until 1982 and possibly as much as 10 per cent per year.

It also sees investment of \$37.5bn for decentralised government agencies between 1979 and 1982; \$7.2m between 1983 and 1986 and \$11.3m between 1987 and 1990.

Petrochemicals

Priority goes to oil, steel,

electricity, capital goods, agro-

industry, petrochemicals, phar-

maceuticals, textiles, shoes and

cars.

Decentralisation is a promi-

nent part of the plan with the creation of 11 new development zones, including four development ports — Tampico and Coatzacoalcos on the Gulf Coast and Las Truchas and Salina Cruz on the Pacific.

Fiscal incentives will no longer be given to new private industry in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey.

Instead it will go to the new investors in the 11 zones. Tax credits of 25 per cent will be granted and the costs of one in every five jobs will be financed.

Those industries investing in the development-poor areas will also get 30 per cent cheaper electricity, natural gas and fuel oil, which are all Government monopolies.

The Government estimates

that this will create on average

600,000 new jobs a year from

now until 1982.

This is still 200,000 short of meeting the demand for about 800,000 new jobs a year.

But the impact on the balance of payments current account will be considerable. Instead of accumulating a current account surplus of \$3.2bn between 1979 and 1982, a deficit of \$2bn is now predicted as a result of the massive expenditure of the oil revenue.

Foreign debt

This figure is felt to be a perfectly acceptable one and, as the Government has already said, it does not intend to use the oil money to reduce greatly the public foreign debt which at present stands at about \$26bn.

Rather, the maturity structure will be improved to

reduce the short-term propor-

tion.

By the year 2000, Mexico's population will be more than 100m. The country does not produce nearly enough food to support itself and the plan draws a gloomy conclusion if agricultural production fails to rise by 3 per cent a year—the figure needed just to keep up with the population increase.

If the impoverished agricultural sector does not meet that target then in 1982 about 21 per cent of the petrodollars will go to pay for goods imports

in 1990 54 per cent.

Mexico uses oil cash for industrial expansion

By William Chislett in Mexico

THE MEXICAN Government has announced its long awaited national industrial development plan which specifies how the country's rapidly increasing oil wealth will be used. The plan envisages a large-scale expansion of industry rather than using the money to improve inadequate social services.

Mexico has the sixth largest proven oil reserves in the world with 40bn barrels. Britain's proved reserves are 19bn and Saudi Arabia's 167bn. Pemex, the state-owned oil monopoly, earned almost \$1bn last year in exports.

The Government has cut

spending, intensified agricultural production, and restricted foreign borrowing, one of the main causes of pressure on the money supply, to pursue that

plan.

The plan confirms that the present oil production of 1.5m b/d will be levered up to 2.5m b/d in 1980 and that export earnings will be held up to \$5bn a year until 1982 to avoid overheating the economy. The valves will not be opened up to satisfy the needs of countries like the U.S. before 1982.

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TOP OF THE LEAGUE

Vehicle production in Britain in 1978

Vehicle production in Britain in 1978	
BL	743,103
Ford	430,879
Chrysler	214,098
General Motors	201,484

Source SMMT

Exports in 1977 (Latest available Industry figures)

Exports in 1977 (Latest available Industry figures)	
BL	365,128
Ford	221,983
Chrysler	132,963
General Motors	70,714

Source SMMT

HOME & AWAY.

BL is far and away Britain's leading motor manufacturer. We make almost as many vehicles as the whole of the rest of the motor industry in Britain. From Minis to 240 ton special purpose trucks.

And remember, nearly 30% of the vehicles the other major manufacturers sell in Britain are shipped in from overseas.

Unlike BL.

96% of our home sales are vehicles made in Britain.

We don't just make British.

We also buy British. Our purchases in Britain in 1978 were around £2 billion. Far more than any other UK-based motor manufacturer.

So much for our home record. Our record away is pretty impressive too.

Export statistics for the industry in 1978 are not yet available.

But our own export earnings of £910 million show that over 40% of the vehicles BL made in Britain last year were sold abroad.

foreign currency earner.
And this, in a country that stands or falls on its exports.

So let's not forget

So let's not forget.
A large successful British motor industry
is fundamental to Britain

We're large

We're large.
We're certainly British

We're certainly British.
And we're on the way to being successful



BL Limited

WORLD TRADE NEWS

Iran still wants Airbuses but will renegotiate order

BY SIMON HENDERSON IN TEHRAN

IRAN AIR has returned its two Airbuses to the European manufacturers six months before their leases were to expire. But the airline is still expressing its long term intention to partially equip its fleet with Airbuses.

The two aircraft had been leased, complete with a West German maintenance crew, prior to the delivery of six Airbuses worth \$25m over the next few years with options for three more.

The aircraft have been returned because the slow revival in passenger traffic since the two month strike prior to the February revolution has prevented full utilisation of the Airbuses. Iran Air is able to meet demand on its domestic and regional routes with its existing Boeing 727s and 737s.

In an interview with Financial Times Mr. Houshang Tajadod, the newly appointed head of Iran Air, said that earlier reports that the Airbus order had been cancelled were incorrect. The airline is only seeking to revise the contracts, Mr. Tajadod said.

Iran Air wants to change the delivery date of the Airbuses and also revise the number of aircraft to be bought, he explained. The airline still believed that the Airbus was needed for its regional and

domestic routes, but instead of six aircraft only four or five would be purchased. Mr. Tajadod added that the purchasing agreement for five Boeing 747s had not been cancelled either.

The idea of a new civil airport for Tehran, 25 miles south of the city, was, however, a "dead duck", in his view. New terminals at the present Mehrabad Airport could absorb the growth in traffic and in the longer term the possibility was being considered of taking over the other side of the airfield, at present used by the Iranian Air Force.

Mitsui seeks partners

BY RICHARD HANSON IN TOKYO

MITSUI AND CO, leader of the Mitsui group of companies participating in Iran's huge Bandar Shahpur petrochemical complex, is to ask the Japanese Government and other Japanese companies to join the project.

Work on the petrochemical project has been suspended since last month when conditions in Iran made further progress impossible. The complex is about 85 per cent complete.

The Mitsui group of companies, which is the Japanese partner in the joint venture with Iran, feel that Japanese

Government participation will help stabilise the situation. At the same time expanding the participation to a broad range of companies would give the project more of a "national flavour", spreading the risk.

At present Mitsui is still sounding out other Japanese companies. One proposal under consideration would increase the capitalisation of the Iran joint venture company, Iran-Japan Petrochemical Corporation, to Y200bn (\$457m) from Y100bn (\$228m) to facilitate the expanded participation.

Hotel renovation plan for China

HONG KONG—An official with a U.S. building company involved in construction in China said the Chinese will probably renovate existing hotels rather than build many new ones.

Mr. Robert Kupfer, president of Turner International, part of the New York-based Turner Construction, said the Chinese have decided to renovate buildings because of problems in arranging financing for major hotel construction projects.

The Chinese are likely to contract with foreign construction companies to supervise the remodelling and with foreign hotel companies to help manage the refurbished properties, he said.

Turner has been involved with bids by two major U.S. hotel chains—Intercontinental and Hyatt International—to build hotels in China. Mr. Kupfer was in Peking last week to put the finishing touches on an agreement with China's Ministry of Foreign Trade to build a \$500m foreign trade complex. Turner is part of a three-company U.S. group that agreed to build the complex.

The apparent retrenchment of the hotel projects is part of a

general cutback in Chinese construction projects.

In Chicago, a Hyatt spokesman said he could not confirm that the Chinese may be shelving their hotel building plans. But he said he would not find it surprising in view of recent reports that Chinese officials are having second thoughts on their

AP-DJ

Talks on air agreement

TOKYO—Regular commercial flights between the U.S. and China are expected to start as early as November, the financial journal Nihon Keizai Shinbun said yesterday.

Japanese Transport Ministry officials declined to comment on the article which quoted aviation officials as saying Peking and Washington had been holding working-level talks on the issue since early this year when they resumed diplomatic ties.

Japan and China are to hold aviation talks in Peking next month, and the officials said it was possible that China would propose an agreement permitting Chinese aircraft to stop in Japan on their way to the U.S.

China needs such permission because it has not yet taken

delivery of Boeing 747 jumbo jets which can fly non-stop to the U.S.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps and Transportation Secretary Brock Adams are expected to visit Peking soon to work out a bilateral air agreement.

France has proposed deals with two Japanese chemical firms on exports of plants and technology, to produce petroleum protein as livestock feed.

France also will build a sulphuric acid factory in Egypt and supply turbines and relay stations for the Egyptian power network.

A separate agreement calls for France to lend Egypt \$27m to expand its sugar refineries.

French wholesalers intend to increase the volume of orders for all types of goods to foreign suppliers in March and April following the decline observed between November and February, according to the National Statistics Institute in Paris.

These products to the U.S. Under

Sweden negotiates oil deal with Mexico

By William Dulforce in Stockholm

SWEDEN HAS negotiated an agreement in principle with Mexico for the supply of 3.5m tonnes of oil a year from 1981.

The deal was agreed during a visit last week to Mexico by Mr. Hadar Cars, Sweden's Trade Minister. Final details will be worked out when Sr. Santiago Roig, the Mexican Foreign Minister and Sr. Jose Andres de Oteyza, the Industry Minister visit Stockholm in June.

The price and type of oil remain to be negotiated but the Mexicans stressed that Sweden could not expect to receive only the lighter qualities, Mr. Cars said.

The question of whether the oil should be refined in Mexico or Sweden is also still open.

Mr. Cars was accompanied by 14 executives from leading Swedish export companies. A commission has been set up to further trade between the two countries.

Last year Sweden exported goods worth SKr 420m (£47m) to Mexico but took only SKr 70m in return. About 20 Swedish companies have branches in Mexico with annual sales of around SKr 1.3bn.

France-Egypt co-operation accord signed

PARIS—France and Egypt have signed a \$95m (£48m)

economic and technical co-operation agreement following a week of negotiations, the basis for future negotiations.

negotiations which cannot take place until there is a government.

The fighting in Uganda has emphasised the gulf dividing the two countries to the point where Tanzania has accused Kenya of helping President Idi Amin stay in power. Kenya has strongly denied the accusations, but observers say Kenya would certainly oppose

AP-DJ

KENYA-TANZANIA BORDER DISPUTE

Uganda war impedes solution

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ATTEMPTS AT reopening the Kenya-Tanzania border and at resolving the long-standing trade differences straining relations between the two countries have been further set back by the current fighting in neighbouring Uganda.

Diplomats say the two countries had been close to a compromise, thanks largely to pressure from the World Bank, but the war in Uganda has again soured relations between Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania closed the border in February, 1977, because of deteriorating trade relations within the East African Community, the customs union that linked Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda in a kind of regional Common Market. The Community finally split up in June, and the bitterness that resulted from it remains one of the fundamental factors affecting relationships among the former members.

It took a lot of arm-twisting by the World Bank, the East African Community's biggest creditor, to get all three parties to agree to the appointment of a mediator to sort out the wreckage of the Community. Dr. Victor Umbricht, a Swiss, took on the job in January, 1978, and sent a team of experts to all three countries to make an inventory of the assets and liabilities of the Community.

Dr. Umbricht's report, which is expected to be ready by June or July, will serve as the basis for future negotiations. Negotiations which cannot take place until there is a government in Kampala.

The fighting in Uganda has emphasised the gulf dividing the two countries to the point where Tanzania has accused Kenya of helping President Idi Amin stay in power. Kenya has strongly denied the accusations, but observers say Kenya would certainly oppose

AP-DJ

countries showed themselves eager to clear up the mess left behind by the breakup of the community. The team said it received a lot of help from all three in the difficult task of identifying the Community's assets. At the time of the split, property, vehicles and equipment were seized by each of the three states.

These assets include the giant oil block headquarters of the Community in Arusha in Tanzania, the railways and harbours headquarters in Nairobi, the ports and telecommunications headquarters in Kampala, as well as 16 aircraft, including four Super VC10s, ships, factories, workshops, equipment, furniture and vehicles.

Just as sensitive an issue, say diplomats, will be the division of the considerable liabilities of the Community among the three partners. At the time of its breakup the Community

Kenya would have to make sacrifices and this they did under the treaty for East African Co-operation, signed in 1957.

The Treaty established a customs union for manufacturers and temporarily modified a system of taxes on inter-state transfers. Kenya also agreed to move the headquarters of the Community from Nairobi to Tanzania and the post and telecommunications headquarters to Uganda. The Treaty involved a system of "transfer taxes" which, in effect, imposed a tariff on manufacturers from a surplus country. An East African Development Bank was also set up, which was required to allocate its funds on the basis of 38 per cent to Uganda and 22 per cent to Kenya.

But the Treaty made no mention of the freedom of the movement of labour within the

three countries. It is this legacy of bitterness which will have to be overcome before normal economic and political relations between the three countries can start again.

Canada cuts car deficit

BY VICTOR MACKIE IN OTTAWA

CANADA'S LARGE deficit in its motor trade with the United States has been cut by 50.2 per cent to C\$538m in 1978 from C\$1.06bn in 1977, the statistics branch of the Canadian Government has reported.

It was the sixth consecutive year that Canada's imports of new motor vehicles, parts, tyres and tubes from the United States exceeded its exports of these products to the U.S. Under

the 14-year-old Canada-U.S. auto pact there is free North American trade in most new North American-made vehicles and parts.

Canadian automobile imports from the U.S. totalled C\$12.53bn in 1978, up 14.5 per cent from C\$10.94bn in 1977. U.S. imports of Canadian automotive products totalled C\$11.96bn, up 21.6 per cent from C\$9.86bn in 1977.

The manufacturers said cheap electrical motors from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, East Germany, Romania, Czechoslovakia and

AP-DJ

Motor dumping alleged

PARIS—The French association of Electric Motor Manufacturers and six other European groups have jointly filed a formal complaint with the EEC.

The six other associations represent motor makers in Belgium, Denmark, Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Germany.

The manufacturers said cheap electrical motors from Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, East Germany, Romania, Czechoslovakia and

AP-DJ

Russia were being dumped in Europe at as much as 25-30 per cent below normal prices, depending on the country.

The French association noted that motors from the Communist Bloc were being sold in France at less than the cost of the raw materials used in their construction.

It suggested that the dumping was responsible for eliminating 50,000 jobs.

AP-DJ



COMPANHIA NACIONAL DE PETROQUÍMICA

—The Count-Down has already started

The ethylene unit of Companhia Nacional de Petroquímica is due to start up at the beginning of 1980. Progress in the construction work is as follows:

Ethylene plant: steam cracker—engineering 100%; civil construction 98%; erection 50%; butadiene unit—erection is scheduled to commence in the third quarter of the coming year, more than 40% of the engineering of this unit having already been concluded and site work beginning in May next. Lummus AG is in charge of the engineering and construction of both the steam cracker and the butadiene units.

Polymer production units under the responsibility of CNP's subsidiary EPC are site about to start, and site construction in the whole platform for which Lummus is responsible is almost complete.

Taking into consideration the Portuguese Government's stand on the necessity of entering into international reciprocal trade arrangements, Companhia Nacional de Petroquímica is endeavouring to establish diversified multilateral relationships. Delegations of the Company are constantly travelling in order to deepen the initial contracts and to explore the most promising prospects with the main goal of studying the possibilities which exist for reciprocal trade agreements and industrial and technological co-operation.

A substantial part of the different products coming out of the steam cracker, namely ethylene, propylene, C₃ fraction, pyrolysis gasoline, pyrolysis fuel oil will be locally processed and upgraded (to polyethylene, polypropylene, butadiene, BTX, carbon black) and eventually absorbed by the internal market.

However, for a period of 3-4 years after start-up, CNP's production will be in excess over the domestic consumption and the balance will have to be exported. CNP has been remarkably successful in establishing agreements

with different companies in several countries tying the present import of petrochemical raw materials for the existing plastics processing industry with future compensation export of CNP products.

Mr. Barreto further said that the undertaking of the second phase would only be approved following due justification. On the 22nd February Professor Jacinto Nunes, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, declared: "It is common sense to affirm that the undertakings of Companhia Nacional de Petroquímica which have already started should not be discontinued."

On the 24th February the Minister of Industry, Mr. Álvaro Barreto, in an interview given to the weekly newspaper *Expresso*, touched on the possibilities of entering into associations involving foreign investments. He quoted the example of Companhia Nacional de Petroquímica and emphasized that the second phase, involving an investment of about three hundred and thirty million dollars in acrylic fibres and in synthetic rubbers, is still waiting for an authorisation which will only be given if joint ventures take place with foreign companies possessing technology and markets guaranteeing a partial outlet for the products.

These unequivocal statements by the Government members responsible for the direction of economic, financial and industrial affairs in Portugal dispelled all doubts on the official support to the Olefins-Petrochemical Complex. The future seems nearer every day, and for CNP the countdown has already started.

Note: As to the understandings about which no decision has been taken yet (this referred to as "second phase"), the Minister's statements coincide with the procedure already followed by CNP concerning the timely authorisation of all the projects now in construction, which were also approved by the Government after thorough analysis of feasibility studies submitted by the Company.

COMPANHIA NACIONAL DE PETROQUÍMICA EP

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SAUDI ARABIA

British team to study N-plant

By David Fishlock, Science Editor

BRITAIN is sending a team to the U.S. to investigate the accident at the 880-MW nuclear power station on Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania.

This was announced yesterday by Mr. Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, which is making a study of the pressurised water reactor (PWR), the type involved in the accident, with Government approval.

Mr. England stressed the electricity supply industry's intention of continuing with plans to build a demonstration PWR in Britain.

The Babcock and Wilcox design of PWR involved in the accident is one of four designs—three U.S. and one German—being examined by the CEBG with the idea of building a 1,200-MW demonstration plant, probably at Sizewell in Essex or Hinkley Point in Somerset.

As Mr. England told the annual delegate conference of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association in York yesterday, the CEBG has the Government's approval to examine the PWR as an alternative to Britain's gas-cooled types of reactor.

Mr. England said that Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Secretary for Energy, had endorsed the Government's decision to order a PWR; provided design work was "satisfactorily completed and all feature, Page 18."

Woman boss for McCann

By Michael Thompson-Noel



Miss Ann Burdus: Moving into the McCann hot seat

MISS ANN BURDUS, 46, has become the first woman chairman of a top British advertising agency. She succeeds Mr. Nigel Grandfield at McCann and Company, who has resigned to join the Saatchi and Saatchi Group.

McCann is the holding company of one of Britain's biggest advertising groups, with annual billings in excess of £70m. The McCann vice-chairman, Mr. Barry Day, has been named group president.

Mr. Grandfield is having discussions with Saatchi and Saatchi—the Conservative Party's agency—about an unspecified venture.

For the past 15 months Miss Burdus has been working for McCann-Erickson International in New York as director of advertising development and strategic planning. McCann-Erickson International is the world's third largest advertising agency, and is part of the Interpublic group of companies.

Miss Burdus joined McCann London as research director in 1971, when billings were £10m. Last year the main McCann agency in London billied £55m, making it second to J. Walter Thompson (£63.5m). At £55m, Saatchi and Saatchi Garland-Compton was the fourth biggest and the leading British-owned agency.

BP faces \$2bn U.S. claim over Libyan oil agreement

By A. H. HERMANN, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A DALLAS court is to be asked to make a \$2bn award against British Petroleum by Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt, a U.S. oil millionaire following a London High Court award of \$17m to BP, the amount by which Mr. Hunt was found to have unjustly enriched himself in a joint Libyan venture with BP, frustrated by the nationalisation of oil fields in Libya.

Up to now Mr. Hunt's action in the U.S. District Court in Dallas, dormant since 1975, had been purely defensive, seeking a declaration that he does not owe anything to BP.

Though the London judgment will go to the Court of Appeal, no stay of the award was granted and BP could lay hands on Mr. Hunt's property if it could find any within the jurisdiction of English courts. Apart from his race horses, however, there is no public knowledge of any assets in the UK. BP has

considerable assets in the U.S. Contractual relations between BP and Mr. Hunt date from 1960 when BP agreed to operate a concession owned by Mr. Hunt and covering the Sarir oilfield in Libya. According to this agreement, Mr. Hunt had to receive a part of the oil but was not liable for any losses.

The present dispute concerns the period between December 1971, when BP's own concessions were sequestered by the Libyan Government, and May 1973 when Hunt's concession was also sequestered.

BP claimed successfully in the High Court that the Libyan nationalisation frustrated its agreement with Mr. Hunt and that part of the oil which he had received before 1973 represented an unjust enrichment out of drilling operations carried out and financed by BP.

Yesterday's announcement of

the counter-action, made by Mr. Hunt's London spokesman, seems to have come as a surprise to BP.

According to Mr. Hunt's London spokesman, his counter-claims fall into three categories. He alleges that BP failed to develop the field quickly enough, preferring to keep oil in the ground in what then appeared a safe and easily accessible area. His second complaint concerns the defensive action which BP, in secret agreements with other oil companies, took after the sequestration. In particular, Mr. Hunt claims that the "hot oil" actions which BP then took against carriers of oil from its sequestered Libyan oil fields, claiming the oil to be its property, made it impossible for Mr. Hunt to export and distribute oil on behalf of the Libyan national company (the Arab Gulf Exploration Company).

This in turn deprived him of oil from his concession earlier developed by BP and, he claims, worsened his relationship with the Libyan Government to the point that his concession was also sequestered.

Mr. Hunt has also claimed that BP negotiated compensation from Libya without consulting him first, as they should have done according to his reading of the agreement.

These points were made by Mr. Hunt's counsel in the London High Court, but with no success. Mr. Hunt, who replaced his London lawyers recently, is likely to pursue them further in the Court of Appeal.

A BP spokesman said he believed the Dallas court had not yet decided whether it had jurisdiction over the case. Mr. Hunt's spokesman, however, said there was no jurisdictional problem in Dallas and the action there was merely suspended in order to await the High Court judgment.

ICI plans to cut 450 jobs annually in fibres division

By SUE CAMERON, CHEMICALS CORRESPONDENT

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL Industries is planning to cut 450 jobs a year in its fibres division between now and the mid-1980s. The company has warned the 11,600 employees in the division that numbers will have to be reduced by about 4 per cent annually. The move follows a 30 per cent cut in the number of people employed by the division over the last three years.

But the group has stressed that the planned 4 per cent annual cut in job numbers is

more of a "guiding figure" than a strict target. ICI has told employees that the number of staff the company employs "must" depend on what it sells. It has also said there is a need "to face up to any restructuring and regrouping" of the fibres business that may be necessary to cut numbers.

But the division has told employees that enforced redundancies will be avoided wherever possible. Jobs will go

through natural wastage, voluntary severance and early retirement.

ICI said yesterday that the division had been hit by "enormous" increases in the cost of raw materials and by overcapacity in the fibres field, particularly in polyester. These factors had combined to "nullify" the division's otherwise successful efforts to cut costs and streamline its organisation.

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Shorts plans to produce Piper Tomahawks in Northern Ireland

By LYNTON McLAIN

SHORT BROTHERS, the State-owned Belfast aerospace company, has reached agreement with the U.S. Piper Aircraft Corporation for the production in Northern Ireland of the Tomahawk trainer.

The move was announced yesterday in London as nearly 3,000 Short Brothers' shop floor workers returned to work after a two-week strike over a pay dispute which closed the main Belfast factory and a smaller works in County Down.

Production of the Tomahawk will create only about 40 jobs initially, but the move is part of a longer-term plan for Short Brothers and Piper to co-operate on future aircraft designs, manufacture and sales.

The Tomahawk is one of the most successful new light aircraft in the U.S. Sales reached 1,400 in the first 15 months of production, although Short Brothers is expected to produce only 10 aircraft a month possibly rising to 18 as the Belfast workforce gains experience and sales in Europe accelerate.

Short Brothers is to invest £500,000 in re-equipping pre-

misses vacated by the Royal Air Force last year and bought by the company.

The site is on the edge of Short Brothers' Belfast Harbour Airport and will be operated as a Tomahawk assembly centre by a new wholly-owned subsidiary, Shorts Light Aircraft Company.

The investment is backed by the Department of Industry and the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, and agreement marks a successful end to Short's second bid to enter the rapidly growing market for light aircraft, now expanding at 7 per cent a year.

The company attempted to acquire the British-Norman (Blenheim) company and the Islander and Trislander aircraft assets of the Fairey group's Belgian subsidiary in August 1977.

The bid was rejected by the Fairey receiver three months later, and the Swiss Pilatus aircraft company eventually took over the assets last year.

Mr. Philip Foreman, Short Brothers' managing director and chief executive, said the latest move was aimed at broadening

the company's product range. He accepted that earlier moves by UK aircraft makers to enter the light aviation field had met with "severe problems."

Half the company's turnover of £44.4m for the year to last August 31 came from aircraft, including the 330 Commuter Airliner.

Production of the Tomahawk at Belfast will be based on customer loads of parts made in the U.S. Components may later be made by Shorts, but this will depend on the success of the early production runs.

The company will bring to an end the re-assembly of the aircraft at CSE Aviation at Carlisle. This company assembled the aircraft after it had been completed and certificated and then dismantled in the U.S. for shipment.

The company will still be

Piper's sales agent for Europe.

The improved efficiency of shipping parts instead of dismantled completed aircraft will cut the cost of making a Tomahawk in Britain by £1,000, Mr. Foreman said yesterday.

Friedman raps state interference

By DAVID FREUD

GOVERNMENT manipulation of exchange rates, the introduction of exchange controls and the manipulation of trade flows had fragmented the world economy since 1981. Professor Milton Friedman, the U.S. economist, said last night.

Professor Friedman, delivering the first Harry G. Johnson memorial lecture in London, presented the results of a study he carried out with Dr. Anna Schwartz on monetary trends in the U.S. and UK.

The most interesting finding was the difference in the degree of unification of the two markets—in terms of similarity of price

for identical products—before and after 1981, when Britain left the gold standard.

Using a detailed comparison of prices in different countries, Professor Irving Kravis had constructed estimates of the exchange rates that would equalise the purchasing power for different currencies.

From this benchmark figure it was possible to estimate the exchange rate between the pound and dollar over the last century.

In the six decades to 1981, the ratio varied little, standing at about 1.1—meaning the

pound could buy about 10 per cent more in the U.K. than \$4.86, the official exchange rate, could buy in the U.S.

From 1981 onwards the position changed, with the purchasing power ratio varying from a low of 0.93 in 1983 to a high of 1.62 in 1985. Professor Friedman said.

In spite of the enormous improvements in transport and communications over the past century, in spite of all the talk of one-world and Leagues of Nations and United Nations, in spite of summit meetings, the world had been far more unified, financially and economically, before 1981 than since.

Industrialist to lead wool committee

By RHYNS DAVID

THE ECONOMIC development committee covering wool textiles has turned to the man-made fibres industry for its new chairman, Dr. Brian Smith, a director of ICI's main Board and until last year chairman of the group's fibre division.

Dr. Smith has just ended a two-year term as president of the British Textile Confederation during which he was closely involved in presenting the textile industry's case for continued safeguards against low-cost imports. He also is a vice-president of CIRFS, the European association for fibre producers, a post in which he helped prepare a European strategy for the sector.

Dr. Smith succeeds Mr. David Finlay-Maxwell as chairman of the economic development committee at a time of much tougher competition for the wool textile industry. Although

it has had some success with exports, the industry has lost ground at home, and the committee has recently revised downwards its estimates of both output and employment.

Increasing competition faced by the industry in export markets was underlined in figures for January recently published by the industry's Press office in Bradford. These showed exports at £29.4m during January, a drop of £700,000 on December's and of £400,000 on those of January 1978.

Exports of wool cloth at £11.4m were 10 per cent down on January 1978, and 12 per cent less in volume. Exports of yarn were down also, but earnings from tops (combed wool) increased by 17 per cent to £4.7m and were 3 per cent greater in volume.

The industry is pointing out, however, that the lower figures in some sectors may have been due at least in part to the effects of the lorry drivers' strike which held up deliveries to the docks.

In the longer term the industry is hoping to export substantially more to the U.S. as a result of the reduction in wool textile tariffs included by the U.S. in its package of proposals at the GATT negotiations. The U.S. after considerable pressure from the UK and the EEC, is proposing to reduce its wool textile tariff from 44 per cent to 33 per cent, which should help make cloth produced in the UK and other EEC countries more competitive there. This GATT agreement is to be finalised in Geneva tomorrow.

Mr. John Smith, Britain's Secretary of State for Trade, has written to the TUC claim-

ing that Britain has secured an important assurance on safeguards.

Britain has been pressing for GATT to allow selective action to be taken against one or a few countries when it is clear their imports are causing injury. At present, safeguard action when invoked, must be used against all importers.

Mr. Smith, in his letter, says it has not been possible so far to secure international backing for Britain's proposal, but the EEC itself has accepted that selective safeguards may be appropriate to deal with sudden and abrupt market disturbance. "This meets our fundamental interest of being able to take action against particularly disruptive imports in order to maintain employment in sensitive UK industries without disrupting world trade on a wide basis," he writes.

The industry is pointing out,

Land shortage threat to home ownership

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

THE GROWTH of home ownership is being threatened by a shortage of available building land, the Building Societies Association says. It adds that in a number of cases Government policies were to blame for the shortage.

Mr. Ralph Stow, chairman of the association, says in its publication, *Building Society Affairs*, that only 150,000 new houses for owner occupation were built last year, compared with 152,000 in 1976. A further decline was expected this year.

The Government target of a modest increase in home ownership was not met because building for owner occupation was not increased to between 170,000 and 180,000 units a year by 1988.

Development Land Tax was excessively complicated and had created uncertainty, even though the Government had made provisions to ensure that comparatively little tax would be paid on small disposals of land.

Mr. Stow says the constantly changing economic environment created great problems for housebuilders, compounded in a number of cases by what are the main reasons for their failure to meet demand.

Government land policies, Mr. Stow says, had created concern on four counts:

- Some local authorities were reluctant to grant planning permission for individual developments while structure plans under the 1968 Town and County Planning Act had

Engineering tool imports increase by 19%

BY LISA WOOD

ANXIETY OVER the increased imports of engineers' cutting tools was expressed yesterday at the annual meeting of the Federation of British Engineers' Tool Manufacturers.

The federation's annual report disclosed that in 1978 exports increased by 4 per cent in actual values to £81.2m while imports were worth £80.9m, an increase in actual terms of 19 per cent over the previous year. The balance of trade in the industry, although still favourable, was reduced from £25.5m in 1977 to £23.3m in 1978.

The report said that the Industrial Development Authority consistently demonstrated its ability to integrate and stimulate business projects of all kinds. It recommended a study of the Authority's operation, and in particular its enterprise development programme, which is specifically directed at encouraging trained managers in large and medium-size companies to start out on their own.

The report suggested, too, that the Government should dispel the widely-held belief that it was more interested in attracting newcomers to Ulster than encouraging existing small companies to expand and diversify.

The present incentives were inadequate to encourage capital investment: general tax allowances and working capital concessions were needed for the first three years of a venture's operation.

Stimulating Small Business in Northern Ireland: from the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce, 22, Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

Ulster asks for aid to small firms

By Our Belfast Correspondent

A wide-ranging report on ways of stimulating the growth of small businesses in Ulster has recommended that the Government adopt measures similar to those of the Irish Republic's Industrial Development Authority.

The study, by the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, examined the problems of Ulster's 26,000 companies employing fewer than 100 people. This sector is dominated by very small businesses: more than 18,000 employ fewer than ten people, and 80 per cent of these are in service industries.

The report said that the Industrial Development Authority consistently demonstrated its ability to integrate and stimulate business projects of all kinds.

UK NEWS

Forecast of brief recovery in output

By David Freud

THESE could be some recovery in industrial output over the next few months, according to the latest circular from the London Business School Centre for Economic Forecasting.

The centre says a recovery is suggested by the acceleration in the real money supply, adjusted for inflation, which has grown at an annual rate of 5.7 per cent over the last three months. However, that growth is expected to weaken as inflation picks up and money stock expansion lessens following recent large sales of gilt-edged stock.

A 10 per cent increase in the price of oil—in world currency terms—would lead to a short-term increase in average world wholesale prices of 0.6 per cent, the centre calculates.

The UK is expected to suffer less than the average from inflation directly caused by higher prices, as its limited balance of payments exposure has resulted in an appreciation in sterling. Japan may suffer more than the average, as the balance of payments consequences have led to a fall in the yen.

The centre argues that world output will suffer during the second half of this year and into 1980 from any increase in prices. "Experience suggests that an increase in inflation will dampen demand."

Exaggerated

However, this movement may be exaggerated if governments respond to higher inflation by contracting monetary growth. The centre believes that within a year a 10 per cent increase in oil prices would reduce expected industrial output by up to 0.5 per cent.

City brokers doe Zoete and Bevan also argue that there could be a revival of economic activity over the coming quarter after a pause during the "winter of discontent."

The firm points out that the real money supply continues to increase rapidly, "which suggests that aggregate demand will remain buoyant over the next six months."

It argues that the excess demand for labour and goods present in the UK economy for many months now shows no signs of abating yet.

It would thus be mistaken to allow foreign inflows to force domestic interest rates to fall substantially.

Freedom urged for Britain's managers

By LISA WOOD

BRITAIN'S MANAGERS needed to be freed from frustrations and obstructions and encouraged in their drive to improve productivity, Sir Monty Flimston, former chairman of British Steel and a director of Sears Holdings, said yesterday.

He was speaking in London at the 1978 Conservationist of the Year awards, sponsored by the Enteric Castrol Institute. Awards are given by the institute, which researches and develops protective maintenance welding technology, in recognition of companies' contributions to saving materials, energy and money through protective maintenance welding.

First prize was won by Sheerness Steel of Sheerness, Kent, which processes 400,000 tons of steel a year in two rolling mills producing bar and

rod steel. Its products go to specialist users for reinforcement bars, wire, springs and other applications.

Sir Monty said that conservation was the basis of good management. "We have as a goal to manufacture efficiently and that is through good management.

I believe that if the management of any other country in the world had to put up with the interferences and interventions we have had to put up with, they would have been bankrupt."

The solution to Britain's manufacturing difficulties did not rest with government intervention, the Trades Union Congress or the employers' federations; rather, it was up to management. "They have the expertise and the pride in their jobs to do it. Unless we

encourage these people we will not get out of the problems."

Big pay increases could not be the only incentive. "We will not encourage people that much if frustrations and obstacles are not removed," said Sir Monty.

"We should only depend on individuals to use their abilities and meet their ambitions. Professional pride was all that Britain's managers had left, and they had to be given the freedom to operate without excessive government intervention, legislation and trade union activity."

The second award went to Hepworth Industrial Plastics, near Burnley, Lancashire. Third prize was awarded to Sir Francis Dashwood, Myre Farm, West Wycombe Estate, Buckinghamshire and a special award was made to Oxy-Gas and Electrical Equipment, Kent.

Buoyant demand lifts British heavy truck sale estimates

By KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

UK DEMAND for heavy trucks has been so buoyant in the first quarter of 1979 that manufacturers and suppliers have steeply revised sales estimates for the year.

Cummins, a leading supplier of truck engines, now believes articulated tractor unit sales in the UK could reach 14,000 in 1979 against a January forecast of 13,000.

If this estimate proves correct, it would still represent a drop from the 14,800 units registered last year. In historic terms, however, the year would be a very good one for the manufacturers.

Cummins is particularly interested in the performance of the market for articulated units because its share of those registered by UK manufacturers is steadily increasing—it was up from 35 to 36.7 per cent in 1978.

And, taking the UK heavy truck market as a whole (trucks of more than 24 tons gross), Cummins maintains its share will rise rapidly from the current 18 per cent to 30 per cent by the early-to-mid 1980s.

Cummins believes UK manufacturers will win back sales from imported trucks.

Manufacturing capacity should prove no problem. A £30m programme to double the 10,000 per year capacity of Cummins' plant at Shotts, Lancashire, where its range of 14-litre engines are made, is on

schedule and will be completed by 1981.

About 60 per cent of Shotts business is automotive, compared with 40 per cent for Cummins' total diesel engine sales.

A new Cummins parts distribution centre for Europe, the Middle East and Africa should be fully operational in Mechelen, Belgium, by October.

Car component makers 'face difficult conditions'

By ARTHUR SMITH, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

PROFIT PROSPECTS for motor component manufacturers are "not especially attractive," according to a report published by Inter Company Comparisons.

The report says the possibility of further petrol and diesel price increases could have a temporary effect on vehicle usage and replacement component demand. "The smaller companies within the industry will find conditions especially difficult, as they continue to compete with the large market share hungry groups, except in particular specialist areas."

Spanish chess piece sold for £25,000

A SPANISH ivory chess piece of the late 13th century, probably representing the king, sold for £25,000 yesterday in a Christie's sale of sculpture and works of art. Another good price was the £13,500 paid by a private English collector for a 14th century French ivory carving of a diptych leaf, which had twice previously appeared at Christie's, in 1913 it sold for £84 and in 1936 for £265.

A bronze figure of Venus went privately for £8,000 and a North Italian bronze centre-

piece of the second half of the 16th century for £5,900. A Limoges gilt metal and enamel casket attributed to Cely I Nouailher and in the collection of Alfred de Rothschild also sold privately for £5,200.

Also at Christie's a continental porcelain part dinner service totalled £123,803. A Meissen part dinner service was bought by Davis, a London dealer, for £15,000 and a single Meissen figure of Arvepoche from the Comedia Dell'Arte made £5,500.

The first day of a Sotheby's auction of medical and scientific books brought in £58,349.

Dawson acquired the three top lots: a first, presentation edition, of Thomas Addison's *On the constitutional and local effects of diseases of the supra renal capsules* 1835 (which first described Addison's disease), for £4,800; a second 1523 edition of *Isagoge* by Berengario da Carpi for the same price; and *Artznei* by Dryander for £3,000.

Blackwell of Oxford acquired Galileo's *Dioptricarum Mathematicarum* for £2,000.

In the sale of glass and paper-

weights, which totalled £34,960, a Dutch private buyer paid £1,650 for a Facon de Venise

goblet of around 1680 while a Baccarat carpet ground paper-weight realised £950. A pair of signed Clifey vases, one cracked, made £900.

On Friday, Christie's opened its second New York saleroom, Christie's East, modelled on the lines of Christie's South Kensington in London and concentrating on a quick throughput of the less expensive antiques. The first auction was in 1978, profits for the companies surveyed rose by 86.4 per cent, while sales volume increased by 46.4 per cent.

Motor Components and Accessory Manufacturers; ICC Business Ratios, 81, City Road, London EC1Y 1BD; price £55.

The Post Office already has about 11,200 Leyland vans in service.

Leyland Vehicles, the bus, truck and tractor division of BL, will build the vans at its Bathgate plant in Scotland. The order is for 420 EA345 vans, with a 274 cu ft capacity, and 410 high-roof EA440 vans, with a 360 cu ft capacity.

More cars likely to fail brake test

By KENNETH GOODING

TESTS CARRIED out by Lucas Girling suggest that more than 40 per cent of cars will fail the roller brake test when it becomes a compulsory part of the MoT in June.

This is twice the failure rate under existing MoT regulations for poor braking performance which, according to the Transport Department, was just over 20 per cent for 1978.

Over the past 10 years Lucas Girling has examined more than 50,000 private cars using roller brake equipment and test criteria similar to those to be used when new regulations come into force.

The latest test, in North London, involved 489 cars and produced a failure rate of 42 per cent—identical to that recorded in a similar test in 1978.

Of the cars tested, 81 per cent were three years old or more and of MoT examination age. The failure rate among these vehicles rose to 46 per cent.

Among the worst faults recorded by engineers at the test were complete failure of front brakes together with deficient rear brakes, unbalanced brakes and hand-brake failure.

Mr Gordon Wainwright, technical service manager for Lucas Girling, said: "The uniformity of the failure rates throughout our 50,000 tests indicates that there will be an increase in the official failure rate."

Indications are that the trend will continue. In March alone 49.65 per cent of new Fords were imported, as the group works towards capturing at least a 30 per cent market share this year.

Importers achieve record share of new car sales

By KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIAL INDUSTRY figures today confirm that importers won a record 55.24 per cent of the UK new car market in March, and that they made their deepest-ever penetration for a first quarter by taking 53.97 per cent of total sales.

Demand in March remained particularly buoyant. Registrations, at 184,974 were 4.46 per cent higher than in the same month last year, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

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As a result, sales during the first quarter, at 476,089, were only marginally below the best-level level of 1978 when registrations for the three months totalled 483,477.

With the Japanese restricting shipments in line with their voluntary agreement to take a "prudent" view of the UK market, the Common Market car companies have gained most from the continuing high demand for new cars.

Cars assembled outside the UK, but within the EEC, accounted for 35 per cent of the first-quarter market against 30.5 per cent in the same period.

Some of this penetration is linked with Ford's "Europeanisation" process which is now complete. As a result, 47 per cent of the new Fords registered in the first quarter were assembled outside the UK. The comparable figure in 1978 was 33.4 per cent.

Indications are that the trend will continue. In March alone 49.65 per cent of new Fords were imported, as the group works towards capturing at least a 30 per cent market share this year.

Meanwhile, BL's first-quarter market share fell from 26 per cent to 22.2 per cent, but the group maintains this just about matches its sales estimate.

In the wake of BL's disclosure along with Honda of Japan, the importance of individual models to manufacturers' takes on renewed significance. Nothing is as good for market share as a successful and popular car.

Ford is having to import Cortinas from Belgium and West Germany to keep pace with demand for Britain's most popular vehicle. And imports from Spain reflect the success of the Fiesta: only 1,812 Fords came in from Spain in the first quarter of 1978 against nearly 12,500 in the same months this year.

Horizon impact

The "car of the year," Chrysler's Horizon, has had a similar impact on the trading balance. Chrysler brought in 8,388 of these French-built cars in the first quarter, against just over 1,000 in 1978.

Renault's R18, rivalling the Cortina and BL's Marina, has already gained some fleet sales. But Renault's 49 per cent jump in first-quarter sales and its emergence as the leading traditional importer (as against non-North-American) reflects not only a popular range of cars, but also the company's policy of strengthening its UK dealer network.

The company is planning to add up to 200 more service points to its present 415 franchised dealers.

Volvo achieved its best performance in the first quarter, thanks in part to demand for the manual version of its small

	UK CAR REGISTRATIONS			Three months ended March				
	1979	%	1978	%	1979	%	1978	%
Total UK produced	83,458	44.76	106,040	59.16	219,160	46.03	254,087	54.19
Total imported	103,016	55.24	73,192	40.84	256,333	53.97	214,827	45.81
Total market	186,474	100.00	179,232	100.00	476,093	100.00	469,914	100.00
Ford*	52,750	28.29	41,395	23.10	126,777	26.43	123,728	26.39
BL—Austin Morris	32,019	17.43	47,439	26.45	83,856	96,073	94,128	96.07
—Jaguar Rover Triumph	6,765	3.64	8,046	4.52	21,847	24.128	22,201	24.06
Total BL*	38,784	20.80	55,485	30.94	105,703	22.20	122,201	24.06
PSA—Chrysler*	13,841	7.42	14,994	8.37	35,636	7.50	31,697	6.76
—Citroen	3,263	1.75	2,705	1.51	9,629	2.02	7,993	1.70
—Peugeot	3,573	1.92	2,101	1.17	10,183	2.14	6,649	1.42
Total PSA	20,677	11.09	19,800	11.05	55,508	11.66	46,359	9.88
GM—Vauxhall*	12,335	6.84	14,864	8.24	32,942	33,914	33,788	8.27
—Opel	2,800	1.51	1,785	1.01	7,257	4,721	7,257	1.53
—Other GM	110	0.06</						

Crusading PM stresses employment

BY PHILIP RAWSTORPE



'I don't endorse Benn' says PM

MR ANTHONY Wedgwood Benn's remark that a vote for the Labour Party would be a vote against the EEC drew a curt response from the Prime Minister yesterday.

"I do not endorse Benn, he does not endorse me," he said when questioned at his Press conference about the Energy Secretary's weekend speech.

"I am not here to comment on what anyone else says. We each make our own speeches. We are not a lot of automatons in the Labour Party."

Nevertheless, he emphasised that all Labour ministers, including Mr. Benn, were marching towards the same end: to put a stop to the Common Agricultural Policy in its present form.

Tough security

JOURNALISTS FACED the strictest security screening in postwar election history in Smith Square, London, yesterday when Labour opened the round of Press conferences.

Both main party headquarters in the normally quiet square were transformed at general elections. Yesterday, numerous police strictly regulated parking, and armed officers checked the credentials of every journalist arriving in the area. Plain clothes officers attended Mr. Callaghan's Press conference at Transport House.

Ecology boost

THE Ecology Party, which is fighting its first general election with 52 candidates, has won five minutes of television time.

The party, which wants smaller schools, businesses and hospitals and greater decentralisation, hopes to win support for its cause, rather than gains in the Commons.

Shore attack

The Conservative proposal to offer council houses for sale at half-price was attacked yesterday by Mr. Peter Shore, Environment Secretary, as "frankly unfair."

"You owe an explanation to those trying to buy their own houses at full price," he said. "You also have to be fair to the taxpayer because somebody has to pay for these half-price houses at the end of the day."

Where appearance may deceive

BY STEWART DALBY

IN THE NORTH, Northern Ireland is the one part of the United Kingdom where it should be easy to predict the outcome of the election.

The Protestants, of whom there are 1.5 million, overwhelmingly want the province to remain part of Britain, and vote for Unionist candidates.

The Roman Catholics, of whom there are 500,000, mainly want a united Ireland and vote for what should loosely be called nationalist or republican candidates.

The Protestant Unionists have been dominant for more than 50 years since the local parliament at Stormont was set up and devised the Westminster constituencies over the years to ensure Protestant majorities all round.

The inherited democracy, with population movements since 1922, meant that the Unionists could not quite guarantee majorities in all 12 seats.

In Belfast West, and Fermanagh-South Tyrone there are natural Roman Catholic majorities. Two others, Mid-Ulster and Down South, are only marginally Protestant.

But the people of Northern Ireland vote largely on sectarian lines. Other things being equal, in the Protestant heartland of north-east Ulster Mr. James Molyneaux, the member for Antrim South, won 71.5 per cent of a 58 per cent turnout in the second 1974 election and

A CONSERVATIVE Government would create "deserts of unemployment" throughout the country, Mr. James Callaghan said in Glasgow last night.

In the first major speech of his election tour, the Prime Minister launched a sharp attack on Conservative proposals for cutting government subsidies to industry and employment.

Conservatives would put more than a million jobs at risk, Mr. Callaghan declared.

"There is not a single part of the UK that would not suffer from the Conservative policy of cutting the jobs programme. They would turn Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and many regions of England into deserts of unemployment."

Mr. Callaghan listed more than 100,000 jobs with companies like British Steel, British Shipbuilders and Chrysler that would be "thrown away" in Scotland.

He contrasted the Tory proposals with Labour's commitment to raise the budget of the Scottish Development Agency by £500m and turn it into a power house for Scottish employment.

Labour would also ensure that North Sea oil benefits were translated into more jobs for Scotland. "The difference between Labour and the Conservatives is that they believe the oil belongs to the multi-national

companies but we believe it belongs to the people."

"The technological changes that will sweep every country and every industry in the coming decade are sufficiently daunting by themselves" he said. "We cannot afford to hand over responsibility to a party who believe the Government's role is to drop out."

Mr. Callaghan asserted:

"Every major industrial nation is involved one way or another with protecting and preserving jobs. The Conservatives' do-nothing policy would be as out of place in the competitive world of the '80s as a cavalry charge against tanks."

Destruction

Voters would have to decide whether they wanted the work to create secure jobs to continue or to risk the destruction that would follow Tory cuts in subsidies.

Mr. Callaghan said: "When every industrial nation is wrestling with grave problems of inflation and unemployment it would be a tragedy for families in every part of our community if the Conservatives turned back the clock to the 1930s."

The speed and scale of the new industrial revolution had



increased the difficulties, Mr. Callaghan said.

"It is now more than ever vital that we have a Government able and willing to intervene positively to ensure that Britain gains and does not lose from the new industrial era."

"The amount of effort the financial and technological resources required are far beyond the scope of individual firms."

"Whether we thrive or perish, whether we increase unemployment or provide more jobs—depends crucially on Government action in partner-

ship with employers and trade unions."

Mr. Callaghan renewed Labour's commitment to Scottish devolution.

"This is the devolution election," he declared—precipitated by a "marriage of convenience between Tories and Scottish Nationalists."

"Not since Laurel and Hardy was there a more comical alliance. I warned the SNP they were turkeys—now it is up to you to carve them up in the polling booths."

Solution

Mr. Callaghan said that the Scotland Act would remain on the statute book and the next Labour Government would re-open the offer to other parties of talks to find the best solution.

Mr. Callaghan concluded: "The difference between Labour and our opponents is that they preach yesterday's answers to today's questions. Their thinking is marooned in the 1930s and their prejudice in the 19th century."

"Our programme is tuned to the 1980s and the years beyond. Britain must belong to the people. The idea of class division between masters and men is an idea whose time has come—and gone. For good."



Mr. Callaghan after yesterday's Press conference

Callaghan promises higher spending and lower taxes

BY JOHN HUNT, PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

FURTHER REDUCTIONS in income-tax under a Labour Government may be possible at the same time as increases in public expenditure, the Prime Minister declared yesterday when he launched his party's election campaign.

"You can do both provided you do it in moderation," he told a Press conference at Transport House.

Mr. Callaghan, in cheerful and buoyant form, also announced that Labour would give the Price Commission new powers not just to freeze prices, but to reduce them where appropriate.

He disclosed that the total cost of the programme outlined in Labour's manifesto published last Friday would be about £2.5bn.

National unity would be the main theme of the Labour Party in the election battle and offices would be the central issue, he said.

This contrasted with a Tory Government which, he claimed, would introduce divisive measures including the scrapping of price controls and pay policy, increases in the charge for the health service and school meals and selling out to Europe over "the ridiculous Common Agricultural Policy."

Under Labour, income tax cuts would be concentrated on young people and average-paid workers by raising the starting point at which tax is paid.

Questioned on this point, he indicated that what he had in mind was a further increase in personal income tax allowances.

For the next Budget, Mr. Denis Healey, Chancellor, had made certain preparations which he had not been able to disclose.

"But you can take it that the general approach will be an increase in the allowances. We shall proceed along these lines," he said.

"My own expectations for the next five years of Labour but to ensure fairness to all."

Heath revives the issues of 1974

BY IAN OWEN

BRITAIN FACES a "hard uphill fight" to turn the economy round, Mr. Edward Heath said last night when he was adopted as Conservative candidate for Leyton, Sidcup.

He endorsed the view of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Opposition leader, that an immediate start can be made by providing incentives.

The former Tory Prime Minister suggested that the country was facing the same issues that confronted it in 1974 when he failed to secure a renewed mandate.

He declared: "The British people have learnt that reality and truth cannot be avoided by turning away their faces."

"They have learnt that the Conservative Party which put in them honestly and, indeed, in as stark a way as possible, the problems which faced this country, was correct."

The British people will heed us now."

Mr. Heath emphasised the need to find a better means of improving pay and productivity.

Economic growth was the key, he said. It could be turned on overnight. Like a tap, but could not be turned on that easily.

Incentives would make possible an immediate start. They should go to those who generated wealth, to provide rewards for hard work, to encourage thrift and savings and to help industries on which Britain's future industrial growth must depend.

The Conservatives would abolish the Price Commission and so let prices rip," he alleged. "Our attitude and policy will be one of co-operation and not of conflict not only for industrial peace but to ensure fairness to all."

He reaffirmed his willingness to enter discussions with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher or Mr. James Callaghan should the voting on May 3 result in either of them heading the largest single party in the Commons without an overall majority.

Such a "powerful wedge," he declared, would prevent excesses by a Conservative or Labour Government with every constituency captured by the Liberals representing another nail in the coffin of failed confrontation politics.

Casting aside dreams of becoming the first party leader since Asquith to form a Liberal

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Mr. Steel said that the purpose of such talks would be to agree a "common programme."

He also maintained that if the forthcoming Rhodesian elec-

Heseltine attacks Labour claims of compassion

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

MRS MICHAEL HESELTINE, shadow Environment Secretary and, for a day at least, shadow media attraction, drove a well-polished knife right into the heart of Labour's crowded boasting yesterday.

To claim Labour was the party that cared, he argued, was a hoax and a fraud. In reality, it was only the Conservative Party that had the ability to "turn caring into doing" by creating the wealth necessary to pay for a caring society.

Taking up a theme made in some of the party's most successful party political broadcasts last year, he accused Labour of failing to translate their pious words into action. All too often, their very incompetence got in the way.

And if that did not, then, he implied, there were enough scally Labour supporters lurking in the union movement to undermine the party's claims to compassion.

Billed as an election meeting, it turned into a fully-fledged media event with assorted

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Costs of direct labour criticised

By Rhys David, Northern Correspondent

THE pro-Conservative pressure group, has fired its first shot of the election campaign with a strong attack on the direct labour building department in Manchester—one of the biggest in the UK with a total workforce of 4,800.

In a report published yesterday, Mr. Malcolm Hoppe, an economist, accuses the Manchester department of being reluctant to face direct competition from private builders, of inefficiency, and of preserving jobs at ratepayers' expense.

The report—intended to act as a further challenge to Labour plans to extend direct works and to nationalise parts of the building industry—accuses Manchester of failing to follow a recommendation that a considerable proportion of direct labour work should be in competition.

In 1977-78, direct labour appears to have obtained only four small housing projects by submitting its estimates for direct comparison with builders tenders.

"These projects totalled only 101 houses worth £892,000—or less than 2.5 per cent of the department's expenditure in that year," it says.

The margin by which it had won competitive tenders had been lower than that recommended by the chartered body covering public finance. In some cases, tenders accepted from the department had been higher than those from contracting firms.

Pym warns of Communist threat

BY JOHN HUNT

BRITAIN SHOULD take a new initiative with the U.S., the EEC and friendly African countries to halt the spread of Communism in Africa, Mr. Francis Pym, the Conservative foreign affairs spokesman, urged yesterday.

He also maintained that if the forthcoming Rhodesian elec-

tions take place in reasonably free and fair conditions, then Britain should do everything possible to secure international recognition for the new state.

Mr. Pym, who could be the new Foreign Secretary if the Tories get power, told party workers in Cambridgeshire that the threat of Communism had never loomed larger in Africa.

Britain should join with the other states in a new concerted policy.

This would give the strongest encouragement and support to democratic solutions to African problems.

It would also oppose any attempts to deprive the African peoples of genuine independence.

Given success, the wedge of Liberal MPs in the Commons would be able to prevent either main party from having things all its own way for five years and imposing its arrogant ideas on the country without having to listen to public opinion.

He hopes of securing the election of the largest number of Liberal MPs seen at Westminster since the war did not rest on "judicious" optimism generated by the by-election success at Liverpool, Edge Hill, late last month.

Edge Hill, he said, had demonstrated what could be achieved in seats where the Liberals had prepared for

victory.

Mr. Steel confirmed that the Liberals will contest more than 500 constituencies. He called for a massive Liberal vote throughout the country.

Given success, the wedge of Liberal MPs in the Commons would be able to prevent either main party from having things all its own way for five years and imposing its arrogant ideas on the country without having to listen to public opinion.

Like Mrs. Thatcher

THE JOBS COLUMN

International managers — official progress

BY MICHAEL DIXON

"AR beyond counting are the words spoken by assorted eminences about the United Kingdom's urgent need of more people capable of managing and managing in other countries and cultures. At least every other day this column receives added evidence that the eminences, in this particular claim, are right, to what a stupidity it is that I have to report.

Gerry Earls is one such internationally capable managerial worker. Some time ago he decided to change from being a jet-lagged consultant, and to become a lecturer at Middlesex Polytechnic with a particular view to replacing himself many times over by teaching skills of cross-cultural management.

In 1972 he began to set up jointly with the business school at Rheims in France a course in European business administration during which a mixture of French and British students could study together the best practices of both countries and equip themselves to work in either with equal facility.

About 15 of each nationality start at Rheims, spending two years in France including a five-month period in industry or commerce, then transferring to Middlesex Poly for a further two years, including five months working in a British concern. Another group of about 15 from each country start at Middlesex

and proceed the other way round.

At the end the successful British students gain a degree, and their French counterparts a "diplome." But unlike the UK education authorities which look down on a course unless almost all of its students emerge with a qualification, the French think a course cannot be much good unless it has a high failure rate. So among the bottom-placed students, the French get nothing at all whereas the British are awarded a third-class degree.

Entrants from the UK start with disadvantages. Mr. Earls told the Association of Teachers of Management conference in Cambridge the other day. The British must have Ordinary-level pass grades in the General Certificate of Education including both French and mathematics, and a GCE Advanced-level pass in one or the other. But they still generally need to be brought up to scratch in French language, maths and French skills.

But before long they are mostly holding their own—the language problem, for example, disappears after about four to six months of the course and at the end, to judge by the first graduates who emerged last summer, they are in great demand on the jobs market.

Thus the Middlesex-Rheims

joint venture seems to be that rare phenomenon: an educational programme producing culturally transferable people whom employers really want.

Would you think, remembering the public pronouncements of the need for increased capability in international business, that the UK education authorities are encouraging British youngsters to take the joint programme? Of course not.

Year only

The UK students are not even granted to the "mandatory" grants given readily and as of right to teenagers pursuing degrees in such topics as drama with sociology, or biblical studies with ancient history.

Instead, the would-be international managers are left to hope that their humble application for some sort of grant will catch their local authority in a generous mood and with a bit of spare cash in the pot. And the fact that local authorities tend to be tight-fisted with such "discretionary" grants is something Government Ministers regularly complain about.

The reason for this stupid denial is thought to be the view in officialdom that mandatory grants should not be available to people whose studies require them to spend more than a year overseas.

Possibly the bureaucrats fear that by encouraging a longer time abroad, they might lead the better students into deciding not to come back. If so, the bureaucrats have a point.

"It would be a bit naive," said Gerry Earls, "when you set out to produce internationally capable managers, to think that they're going to get many of them to work in Britain as things are at present."

Any such reluctance to export the educational benefits of UK taxpayers' money by way of the Middlesex-Rheims enterprise, however, chimes weirdly with officialdom's actions in other instances.

Given 120 British students on the joint course at any one time, the total sum at stake—at the top rate of mandatory grant to be paid in 1978-80—would be £178,300 a year. But the Government admitted only last month that "well over £100m" of UK taxpayers' money is being used annually to subsidise the higher education in Britain of students from overseas.

And most of these students come from the richer families in their home countries and often also from rich territories such as the Middle East, the U.S. and Hong Kong. Indeed, the average youngster studying here seems to be getting on for £100 more than the highest rate of mandatory grant.

1974. But neither, apparently, is the reason necessarily any official disbelief in the value of the joint programme.

The standard defence of the hands-on hand-outs to students from overseas is that the subsidy will be returned with interest later, by the students' grateful urge to buy British after they have returned to take up influential positions in their own land.

If this claim is true (which I heartily doubt) it must surely be even more true of the British-bred people who go to managerial jobs abroad after gaining their bachelor's degree in the Middlesex-Rheims programme.

Moreover, the restriction of grant finance applied to bachelor-level students who spend more than a year overseas, does not seem to be applied at higher-degree level. Goodness knows how much UK taxpayers' money is being used annually to subsidise the higher education in Britain of students from overseas.

And most of these students come from the richer families in their home countries and often also from rich territories such as the Middle East, the U.S. and Hong Kong. Indeed, the average youngster studying here seems to be getting on for £100 more than the highest rate of mandatory grant.

The reason for the denial of the mandatory grant is not a failure by the course-organisers to let the bureaucrats know what is wanted, Gerry Earls told the conference that he has been vainly asking the education authorities for his required extension of the grant since

1974. But neither, apparently, is the reason necessarily any official disbelief in the value of the joint programme.

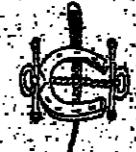
The programme may have been partly what was in the governmental mind late last year when provisions touching upon grants for students on "certain courses provided in conjunction with overseas institutions," were included in some newly proposed legislation.

A check with the Department of Education and Science indicates that the legislation itself would certainly not have granted the dearest wish of Mr. Earls and his UK students. But it would at least have given officialdom some basis on which to debate whether or not to make available the grant finance, which the course-organisers have been requesting for the past five years. Unfortunately, however, that particular piece of legislation had still not reached the House of Lords before Parliament dissolved for the General Election. So the legislative process will have to start all over again, and whether and if so when the enabling provisions will be reintroduced, nobody can be sure.

All of which points to a final, important question. With a bureaucracy like this, who needs balliffs?

(The next Jobs Column should appear on April 26.)

The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club



DEPUTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT MANAGER

The Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club runs two race courses and stabling for 800 horses. It also controls horse race betting and conducts a lottery on behalf of the Government appointed Lottery Board. The substantial surplus arising from betting turnover is used for community and charitable purposes in Hong Kong.

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London, W1Y 3FG.

Head of Financial Analysis

aged 28-33

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 BANK OF AMERICA

Assistant Director Marketing

A strategically crucial position in a major unit linked life assurance company which is currently in a vigorous growth situation.

Reporting to a Main Board Director, you will have full responsibility for the operation of the Marketing Division. You will develop and control marketing strategy and research, supervise public relations and advertising operations (budget about £1m per year), activate all sales outlets other than direct commission sales, and be closely involved in product development. You must have had experience of marketing management in a senior capacity, not necessarily primarily in insurance itself, though exposure to marketing in the investment, financial or insurance fields is essential. Familiarity with unit linking and particular tax benefits is highly desirable. Age range 35-45.

Salary c.£18,000 plus car. Fringe benefits are excellent and include possible mortgage assistance. Location Southern England.

Applicants, male or female, please send full details of qualifications and experience, quoting reference 1347 KS/FT to:

Robert Lee
International
24 BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON W1X 8AR

SUPERB OPPORTUNITY

Businessman with world-wide interests resident in Monte Carlo, requires semi-retired executive with legal or accountancy background to administer and possibly expand his English interests. This position would suit an executive of great ability looking for new challenges without a daily routine commitment, to whom salary is now of secondary importance. Will operate in London from luxurious facilities in Mayfair.

Essential fullest details are furnished in first instance to Winnic Services Ltd, 38 Green Street, London W1Y 3HJ. All communications will be acknowledged and returned on request. All replies strictly confidential. Selected interviews will follow.

DEALER
c. £7,500
Sports-Foreign Exchange, E.C.3.
Major International Bank.
01-492 0540
PREMIER PERSONNEL AGT.

Credit Control Manager



Memorex UK Ltd., leaders in the computer peripheral market have a vacancy for a Credit Control Manager.

Based at our new Staines office and reporting to the Finance Director, you would be fully responsible for our computerised credit control system, debt management and liaison with solicitors.

Applicants, male or female, should be aged 30-40 with at least five years' experience in a high turnover business, and is preferably an MCM.

Our excellent benefits package includes company car, pension and life assurance schemes, LV's and BUPA cover after one year's service.

Write or telephone Nigel Harris, Memorex UK Ltd., Memorex House, 96-104 Church Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4XU. Tel: Staines 51488.

MEMOREX

FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADERS

A major American bank, generally regarded as one of the leaders in the field of Foreign Exchange which has trading operations in the major financial centers of the world, has need of two traders with five years experience or more.

Candidates should have acquired their experience in a dealing room of recognized standing in a major financial center. They should have a background of trading in the major currencies, spot and forward, and be familiar with the functioning of the more important exchange markets. They should be able to form independent judgements of the various factors influencing the market and the probable effect they will have, in his estimation, on the exchange markets, local interest rates, and the like and to communicate those views to the bank's customers, especially its commercial customers.

Salaries will be perfectly competitive.

WILLIAM H. BRAWLEY ASSOCIATES
EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANTS
POST OFFICE BOX 486 107 CHERRY STREET
NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT 06840

INTERNATIONAL BANKING GROUP IN PARIS

is looking for

INTERNATIONAL BANKER

Applicants, preferably aged between 28 and 32, will ideally have the following qualifications:
— Five years experience in international banking.
— Experience in energy finance would be an advantage.
— Strong knowledge of Eurocurrency lending and credit analysis.
— Fluency in English and a working knowledge of French.
Applications with detailed curriculum vitae will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be sent to HAVAS CONTACT, 126, boulevard Haussmann - 75008 PARIS, ref. 69939.

SETTLEMENT CLERK

wanted for American investment banking company. One year's experience of Eurobond settlement required. Salary negotiable. Hours 9.30 to 5.30. Luncheon vouchers and all usual perks offered.

Please reply to Box A.6735, Financial Times.

10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

STOCKBROKING IN IPSWICH

ANDERSON & CO.

seek an Attaché/Member with substantial established business to join their Ipswich office. Direct line to the London office and the Market Price Display Service are installed.

Enquiries should be made to:

Mr. Quilter or Mr. Bassett of Anderson & Co.,
158 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.
Telephone 01-623 9231.

Invest in a career with us

We are a specialist Insurance Group with growing funds and require an enthusiastic INVESTMENT ASSISTANT who will work closely with the Investment Manager and will assist with:

- The day-to-day administration of our investment portfolio.
- The formulation of investment policies.
- The identification of investment opportunities.

Qualifications:

We would prefer a degree or professional qualification, but ALL applicants with at least two years' relevant experience will be seriously considered.

Salary:

We will pay a highly competitive salary depending upon the experience and ability of the applicant selected.

Benefits:

We offer a very generous staff mortgage scheme, a non-contributory Pension Scheme, Bonuses, etc.

Please write, giving full career details, to Chris Dawson, Investment Manager, Medical Sickness Society, 7/10 Chandos St., Cavendish Square, London, W1 2LN.

Financial Manager/ Company Secretary

Director Designate
c.£12,000

Our client is a private company, established for 25 years with a current turnover of £15 million and a line of record of expansion.

The existing Finance Director/Company Secretary will retire in mid-1980 and an experienced, outgoing mature replacement is required who will be responsible to the Managing Director.

The main duties cover overall responsibility for all financial and Secretarial matters and applicants should have relevant qualifications and experience. A 2904 computer is in operation.

The successful applicant will be an important member of the young management team.

The preferred age range is 35-45 and the location is West Middlesex. A non-contributory pension scheme and company car are offered and relocation expenses will be paid if necessary.

Please write with full details to Position Number ABF 970, Austin Knight Limited, Tropic House, 51-53 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 8TP.

Applications are forwarded to the client concerned, therefore names in which you are not interested should be listed in a covering letter to the Position Number Supervisor.

AK ADVERTISING

A company with modern offices in Mayfair is offering a lucrative possibility to a:

COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT

with knowledge of the Greek language.

Applicants are requested to send full particulars including salary required to Box A6736, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

GROUND FLOOR DEAL?

We are seeking a new project and require a young acquisitive and ambitious person to play a major role.

You should have either Financial/Professional training or Broker/Dealer experience. You should be keen and hardworking as a lot has to be achieved in a short time.

DUKE STREET BROKERS LTD.

57 Duke Street, London W1M 5DH

01-629 2521 / 01-406 2111

Grow with Océ in plain paper copying.

THE COMPANY

The rapidly expanding international Group of Océ Companies has a turnover of £300m and employs 13,000 people. Now Océ are extending their successful penetration of the Plain Paper Copying Market in the United Kingdom and require additional Major Account Sales Executives in London, the Home Counties and the Midlands.

THE PRODUCT

The Océ success in Europe results from the unique design concepts of the products which are manufactured by Océ in Holland. New products are now being introduced and will further increase market penetration in the U.K.

THE JOB

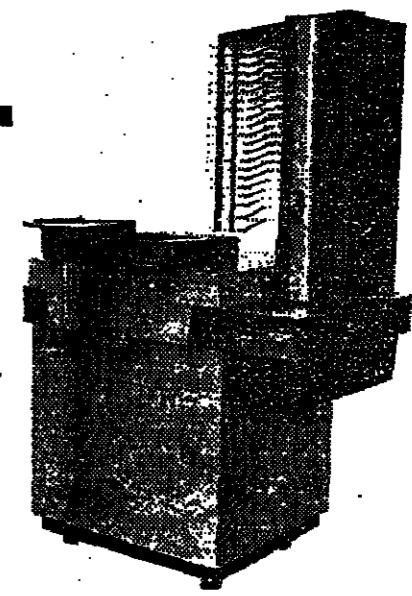
Sales Executive—Major Accounts

To continue the growth in placements of the Océ Plain Paper Copier range to large organisations, it entails the ability to sell the Océ philosophy, and the advantages of the product range both verbally and in writing to all levels of management. Knowledge of the copying market is desirable but not obligatory. Self motivation and maturity to manage all aspects of the job are essential. For sales representatives, without major account experience, there will be a development programme prepared specifically for the major account environment.

THE OPPORTUNITY

To develop your career in a growing organisation and attain a very attractive remuneration package.

Ring T. K. Clapp on 01-405 8494 for an immediate appointment or apply in writing to: T. K. Clapp, Sales Manager, Océ Skycopy BV, 4-12 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1EG.



Océ is sensible copying. Océ

Océ and Van der Grinten are trade marks.

DOCUMENTARY LETTERS OF CREDIT

International Bank in the City has a vacancy in one of its Senior Departments dealing in Letters of Credit, Documentary Collection and Acceptance Financing.

The person we are seeking should have current experience in the paying/negotiating of Drafts and Documents with a good knowledge of U.C.P. rules. After a short introductory period we expect the successful candidate to be fully operational and working on their own initiative. Knowledge of Opening Letters of Credit an advantage.

Excellent salary plus usual Bank fringe benefits. This year's holiday arrangements honoured.

Please apply in strict confidence to Box A6732, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Salary c. £5,500 p.a.

A well-known City Investment Trust requires a Finalist/Qualified Accountant/Banker as assistant to the Treasurer of its associated Banking Group of Companies which are involved in the hire purchase, leasing and commercial mortgage fields. The successful applicant will be aged between 21-30.

In addition to the salary there is a Non-Contributory Pension and Life Assurance Scheme; assistance on Mortgage Facilities; Permanent Health Insurance Scheme; Free BUPA cover and 75p Luncheon Vouchers per day.

Please apply in writing in strictest confidence to:

WALTER JUDD LTD. (Ref: L186),
(Incorporated Practitioners in Advertising),
1a Bow Lane, London EC4M 9EJ.

ASSISTANT INVESTMENT MANAGER

Commodities and commodity shares

A leading merchant bank is expanding its department which advises a range of clients on commodities and commodity shares on a non-speculative basis.

The Fund Manager is seeking to recruit and train an assistant who would be capable of taking on management and client liaison responsibilities after an initial period. The successful candidate is likely to be educated to degree level and to have had some commercial experience involving commodities and commodity share analysis. Some knowledge of the fundamental effects of world economic activity on the price of industrial commodities would also be an asset.

The target age bracket is between 25-33 years, and the successful candidate will require the strongest of references. The reward range is £10-15,000 p.a. according to age and experience.

Please write or telephone in confidence to:

SOPHIST SET GIBBS.

Directorship Appointments limited
17 Devonshire Street, London WIN 1FS.
01-580 7357.

£6,000

accountancy appointments

£9,000

AUDITING, MERCHANTISING AND INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

World-wide progressive and diversified merchandising and industrial organisation in constant expansion, seeks a:

STAFF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Assist the London-based senior in verification and operational audits of various operations in the U.K. and Ireland. Frequent travel involved.

The suitable candidate is aged 24/27, a qualified accountant with experience in public accounting or in a large commercial/industrial concern, and able to work in an EDP environment. Knowledge of French regarded as an asset.

Starting salary commensurate with experience, good prospects. Company car provided.

Send replies in confidence to:

**A. L. McDonald, Personnel Manager,
TRADAX ENGLAND LIMITED,
St. Mary's Walk, High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire.**

Assistant Financial Controller

Brixton Estate is an expanding property development and investment group operating in the United Kingdom and Overseas with Assets of over £100 million.

We require a qualified accountant, probably in his/mid to late twenties, to join our staff as Assistant Financial Controller at our Head Office in Holborn. Previous experience in commerce or industry is not essential. The duties of the successful applicant will be varied and interesting.

We are offering a salary of approximately £10,000 p.a. together with generous fringe benefits, and there are excellent prospects within the Group.

Please apply in writing to: J. A. Nicholls, F.C.A., Financial Controller, Brixton Estate Limited, 23/24 Ely Place, London EC1N 6TQ.

**Brixton
Estate**

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

LONDON BRIDGE

NEWLY QUAL ACA/ACCA/ACMA

£7,000+

Tremendous opportunity for ambitious young accountant to "start at the top" reporting to Fin. Director of medium sized public co. with complete responsibility for overall accounts function, consultation on policy decisions, involvement on general management, etc. Ref. 5127 CONTACT MOORGATE OFFICE.

ASST. TO DIRECTOR

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

MERCHANT BANK

£9,000

Small yet influential Merchant Bank wishes to recruit a Qualified Accountant to act as a high level assistant to a director. For a hard working and well motivated young accountant prospects and benefits are excellent. Ref. 4856 CONTACT VICTORIA OFFICE.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

W1

We're looking for the sort of Qualified Accountant strongly oriented to a dynamic Management career in a leading Multi-National. This U.S. group offers total responsibility for the U.K. accounting function. Training in the U.S. and definite board prospects in three years. Ref. 4767. CONTACT WEST END OFFICE.

Telephone or Write:
63/65 MOORGATE, LONDON, EC2. (01) 628 8438
53 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, SW1. (01) 222 0481
14 GT. CASTLE STREET, LONDON, W1. (01) 580 3035

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

TO

A LARGE FIRM OF CITY SOLICITORS

CIRCA £8,500

This vacancy is open to qualified (probably Chartered) Accountants preferably with a background of accounting within the legal profession. Reporting to the Executive Partners, the Financial Controller will be directly responsible for managing the accounting functions of the firm and will also be expected to advise on and participate in the financial management of the firm. Knowledge of partnership taxation would be an advantage. Applications to Box A.6731, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

Dolby Laboratories

Financial and Management Accountant London SW9

£7000

We manufacture and market professional audio noise reduction equipment which is widely used by the recording, broadcasting and film industries throughout the world. The Company has enjoyed successful growth since 1965.

This new position has been created as a result of recent expansion. The successful applicant will report to the Controller of Finance & Administration and will be responsible for the supervision of our small accounts department. Other duties will include a variety of finance-related work such as cash-forecasts, standard costing, etc. Future projects include the introduction of budgets and monthly accounts, and computerisation.

We are looking for a young accountant, probably ACA, with an ability to communicate effectively at all levels. We have a non-contributory pension scheme, free life assurance, and will pay relocation expenses if necessary.

Apply in writing to John Lewis-Crosby.

Dolby Laboratories
Dolby Laboratories Inc
346 Clapham Road
London SW9 9AP

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CITY FROM £8,500

This is an important opportunity for a young chartered accountant seeking a first move from the profession. Our client, a multi-national U.K. trading group, will offer this senior head office appointment to a person capable of taking on a range of directional financial management responsibilities. The role will include utilisation of some of the most sophisticated techniques available to the modern business executive. The specification is definitely non-routine and will appeal to ambitious candidates seeking large company career development.

Please telephone our Financial Consultant on:
01-405 0654 quoting Ref: AJM/352
DRAKE SENIOR APPOINTMENTS (Consultants)
121 Kingsway, London, WC2

DRAKE SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

£9,000 neg.

We are a small City-based recruitment consultancy providing a specialist service in Financial Appointments.

Our development is geared to an ability to identify with and work closely for a varied clientele both large and small in the London and Home Counties areas.

The role is challenging and unusual. A high degree of commercial expertise is essential and ideally a Business or Professional qualification.

For an initial exchange of information call Robert Miles on 01-248 6321.

PERSONNEL RESOURCES

UNITED

House, Old Bailey,
London, EC4

INVESTMENT MANAGER

£9,000 p.a. + Car

Applicants, preferably qualified accountants, should have stock market investment experience and some knowledge of personal taxation and private trusts.

A wide variety of financial interests are administered from a head office in West Kensington, London.

Write Box A.6697, Financial Times,
10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

Recently-Qualified Accountant c.£8,000

This is an excellent opportunity for a recently-qualified accountant to broaden his or her financial experience.

Willis Faber is a leading broker operating in world-wide insurance and reinsurance markets. The successful candidate will be offered a generous remuneration. Please send full cv. to Peter Childs or ring 01-488 8715.

Willis Faber

International Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers
Willis, Faber & Dumas Ltd,
Ten, Trinity Square, London EC3P 3AX
and at Lloyd's

PART-QUALIFIED COST ACCOUNTANT

£5,000 neg.

More information on your accounting career with the international processing organisation. This is your chance to gain valuable management experience. Your career future and benefits are secure, so contact Adam Glass on

01-828 8055

Churchill Personnel Consultants
Aldford House, 15 Wilton Road,
London SW1V 1LT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

A major British international group with extensive and expanding overseas interests is seeking a young financial executive for its London Head Office. This is a career appointment in which the successful candidate will report to the Group Financial Controller whilst being groomed for financial line management in the Far East in 2-3 years time.

The requirement is for a recently qualified Chartered Accountant in their mid-20s with the character and potential to succeed to the senior positions which will be open.

A competitive salary, commensurate with age and experience, will be offered plus bonus and car.

Write in confidence to:

F. H. Scoble
F. H. Scoble & Associates
Management Consultants

28-29 St. James's Square, London, S.W.1.

Aggressive international freight forwarding company with offices in UK, USA and on the Continent requires a recently Qualified Accountant with at least 3 years' experience to manage its Accounts Dept at Heathrow Airport. Knowledge of computers essential and knowledge of airline and freight forwarding operations an advantage. Salary negotiable based on experience.

Financial Accountant c.£8,500+car+benefits Luton

Whitbread London Limited, part of the successful brewing group, are looking for a Financial Accountant, male or female, to be based initially at their office at Kings Cross, but who will move to their new headquarters at Luton early in 1980.

As head of a department of 50 staff you will be responsible for every aspect of financial accounting at all the Company's locations which consist of a major brewery, two production depots, and eight distribution depots. Proven success in managing large departments should be backed up by your ability to work effectively with line management, and to motivate all levels of staff by personal commitment.

You will need to be a qualified Accountant aged over 30, with at least five years post-qualification experience in Financial and Management accounting techniques.

A competitive salary will be supported by the complete range of benefits you would expect from a major organisation, including relocation assistance where appropriate.

If you feel you have the qualities to meet the demands of this appointment please write or phone for an application form: Lynn Cracknell, Recruitment Administrator, Whitbread & Co. Limited, Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4SD. Tel: 01-606 4455. Please quote ref: WL/G.

WHITBREAD

SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGER RADIO SYSTEMS SAUDI ARABIA

This position offers senior level responsibility for customer interface, new business development, management of operations, and co-ordination of systems and product installation. Your background should have proven managerial experience, technical expertise in systems installation, operation and maintenance of complex radio-communications equipment and systems.

As the senior in-country manager, this position offers an attractive compensation and benefits package.

Harris Corporation is a world leader in communications and information processing equipment and systems. If you're looking for a hands-on, senior management position, send your résumé to: Donald G. Murray, Director of Personnel, Harris Corporation, RF Communications Division, 1680 University Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14610 U.S.A.

HARRIS
COMMUNICATION AND
INFORMATION PROCESSING

An Equal Opportunity Employer—Male and Female

Banque de la Société Financière Européenne International Bank Located in Paris is looking for

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT SPECIALIST

Applicants, preferably aged between 30 and 35, should have the following qualifications:

- MBA or technical degree.
- At least three years' experience in financial analysis in an international bank or similar institution.
- Fluency in English and a good working knowledge in French. Any additional language would be an advantage.

CREDIT ANALYST

Aged between 25 and 28 with MBA degree or equivalent, two years of professional experience in Banking or Finance, fluent in English and a working knowledge in French.

Applications with detailed curriculum vitae will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be sent to: E. Perlezwitz, Manager, Banque de la Société Financière Européenne, 20, rue de la Paix, 75002 Paris.

WORK OPPORTUNITY IN ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.



ABU DHABI NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (FOR DISTRIBUTION)

announces the following Vacancy in its Lubricants Oil Blending & Packaging Plants.

1. Post Title: Accountant.
2. No. of Vacancies: One (1).
3. Experience & Qualifications: Qualified Accountant with at least 4 years experience in a Manufacturing Company with special emphasis on Inventory Management and Costing.
4. Job Responsibility: To take full control of the Account—Costing and Management information of the two Plants.
5. Fringe Benefits: Provision of free Air Passage, fully furnished accommodation and free Medical Care.

Interested applicants may write to the following Address:
The Group Manager Administration,
Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. For Distribution,
Post Box No. 4158,
Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.

GRADUATES M.F. with min. 1st banking experience. Fluent Spanish. To travel in S.W. Europe & Latin America for City Bank. Salary £45,000. Please quote V.P.N. Emp. (Adv) 01-283 60223.

FUND MANAGER RECD. by leading Merchant Bank. Age 23+. Salary £27,500.00. Experience in ex-Spanish market. £2,500 metric tons) in Northern Greece. Details: Mr. Michael L. Lefebvre, Mr. Mikas or Mr. Lebosis; or more details: phone (301) 5543051. Telex 237-23300. Address: GREEK S.A. Menda Attikis, Greece.

PERSONAL

Who will provide jobs for our disabled ex-Servicemen? Finding work is hard enough. For disabled ex-Servicemen it's almost impossible. The Legion, provides them with sheltered employment, homes and other essentials. The Legion's Appeal alone cannot pay for these. Please send your donation to: The Royal British Legion Appeal Department, Maidstone, Kent ME20 1XN.

ALFRED MARKS STAFF BUREAU

Deputy County Council
Solicitors will be issued on 10th April 1979, maturing 10th July 1980. The maximum rate accepted was £65.5m, at which rate were quoted the total amount of bids exceeding £50m.

CONFIDENTIAL FOR GREECE. Requires 200000 metric tons) in Northern Greece. Details: Mr. Michael L. Lefebvre, Mr. Mikas or Mr. Lebosis; or more details: phone (301) 5543051. Telex 237-23300. Address: GREEK S.A. Menda Attikis, Greece.

GRADUATES M.F. with min. 1st banking experience. Fluent Spanish. To travel in S.W. Europe & Latin America for City Bank. Salary £45,000. Please quote V.P.N. Emp. (Adv) 01-283 60223.

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LEGAL NOTICES

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, in the Matter of

00016 of 1979
CHANSTOW LIMITED
No. 00016 of 1979
MINFORGE LIMITED

and in the Matter of The Companies Act.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Petitions for the Winding-up of the above-named Companies by the High Court of Justice was on the 27th day of March 1979, presented to the said Court by THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES of the London Borough of Haringey of the Civic Centre, Wood Green, London, N.22, and that the said Petitions are directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LJ on the 14th day of May, 1979, and any creditor or contributary of either of the said Companies, desirous to support or oppose the Petition, may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his counsel, for that purpose, and a copy of the Petition will be served on him or her, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be received, in the afternoon of the 11th day of May 1979.

Civic Centre,
Wood Green,
London, N.22.

Solicitors for the Petitioners.

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of either of the said Petitions must serve on, or send post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or firm, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be received, in the afternoon of the 11th day of May 1979.

No. 00016 of 1979
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, in the Matter of WHITES BUILDERS (SHIRLEY) LIMITED and in the Matter of WHITES BUILDERS (LONDON) LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 27th day of March 1979, presented to the said Court by M. B. ENGINEERS LIMITED whose registered office is situated at Shirley, London, L.3. and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LJ on the 30th day of April 1979, and any creditor or contributary of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the Petition, may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his counsel, for that purpose, and a copy of the Petition will be served on him or her, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be received, in the afternoon of the 27th day of April 1979.

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of either of the said Petitions must serve on, or send post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or firm, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be received, in the afternoon of the 27th day of April 1979.

No. 00016 of 1979
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, in the Matter of MUSICASE LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 27th day of March 1979, presented to the said Court by CBS (UNITED KINGDOM) LIMITED Proprietors of CBS Records which registered office is 1785 Sloane Square, W.1 in Greater London, a creditor, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LJ on the 14th day of May 1979, and any creditor or contributary of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the Petition, may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his counsel, for that purpose, and a copy of the Petition will be served on him or her, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be received, in the afternoon of the 11th day of May 1979.

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of either of the said Petitions must serve on, or send post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or firm, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be received, in the afternoon of the 11th day of May 1979.

No. 00016 of 1979
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, in the Matter of MUSICASE LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948

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NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of either of the said Petitions must serve on, or send post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or firm, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be received, in the afternoon of the 11th day of May 1979.

No. 00016 of 1979
In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court, in the Matter of MUSICASE LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 27th day of March 1979, presented to the said Court by CBS (UNITED KINGDOM) LIMITED Proprietors of CBS Records which registered office is 1785 Sloane Square, W.1 in Greater London, a creditor, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LJ on the 14th day of May 1979, and any creditor or contributary of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the Petition, may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his counsel, for that purpose, and a copy of the Petition will be served on him or her, or his or her solicitor (if any) and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be received, in the afternoon of the 11th day of May 1979.

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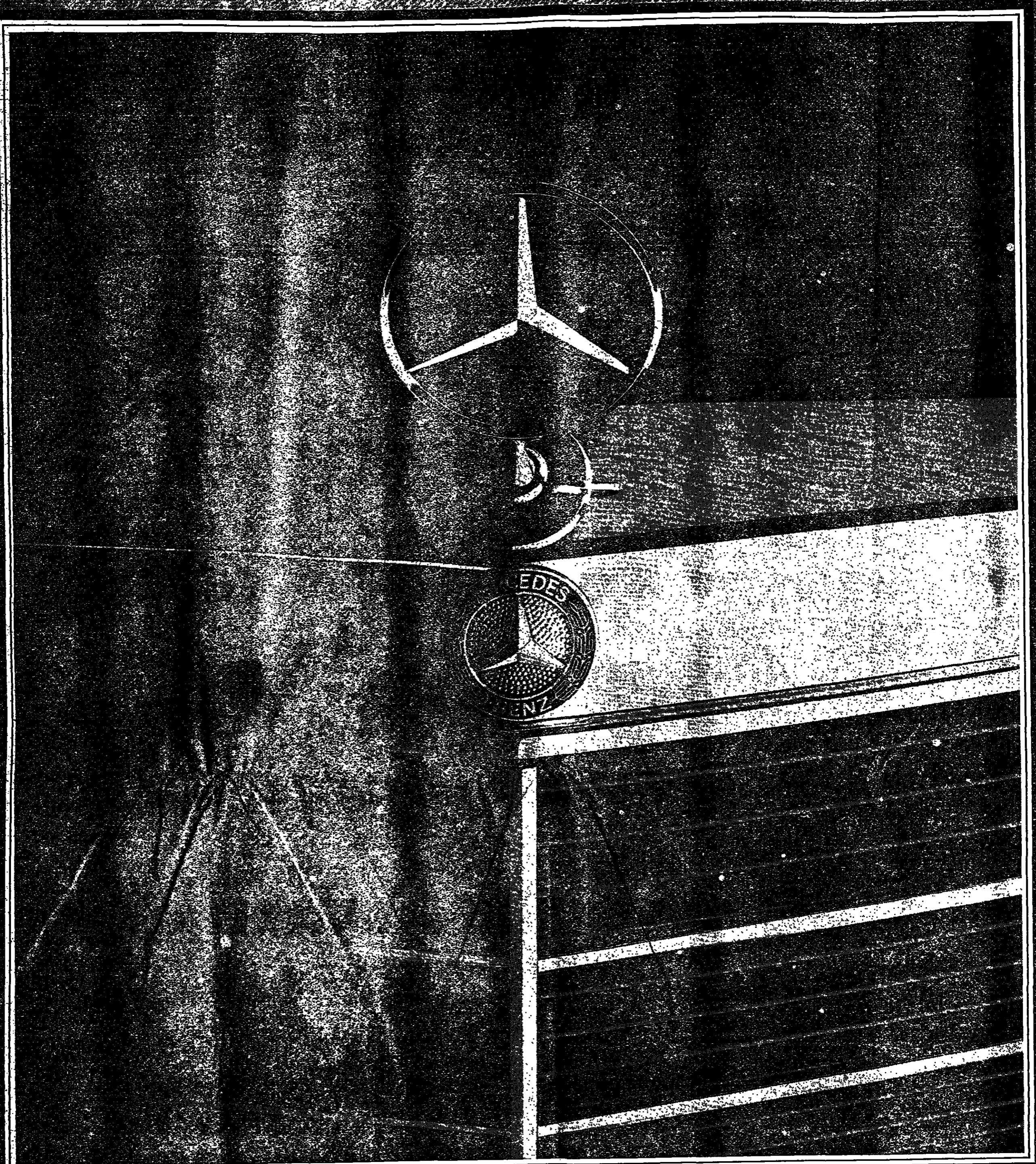
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THE INDULGENCE TO FOLLOW OURSELVES.

It's a natural law of the automobile that there is a relationship between the performance of the engine and the running gear and body of the car.

It's the way these three elements interact with each other that makes driving a Mercedes-Benz such a pleasurable pleasure.

It's been with most people's consciousness for much longer than most of us can remember, that all the mechanical parts are integrated into the complete suspension system of all our cars.

As a result long journeys become far less tiring simply because our cars are designed to far less strain.

The look of a Mercedes-Benz is considered classic by some, but that is not the most important criterion when we come to design our cars.

At the heart of our cars is a type of the engine, the drive of the chassis, the running gear and body of the car.

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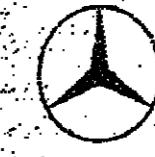
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of the Mercedes-Benz combine together to produce a car.

In fact, the Mercedes-Benz Suspension System is so sophisticated that in certain circumstances it can compensate for a slight miscalculation on the part of the driver.

No-one could be better acquainted with the differences between Mercedes-Benz and an ordinary car than one of our drivers.

And the people who know our cars, like those differences so much, nine out of ten new Mercedes-Benz are bought by previous owners.



Mercedes-Benz

Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

METALWORKING

Big shape drawn in a single pass

SMG hydraulic press division of Schuler Presses is claiming a technical breakthrough in the production of the welded type of acetylene gas storage cylinders as used in the UK.

Utilising the hydro-mechanical drawing process pioneered and developed by SMG, a blank of 825 mm dia. x 3.5 mm thick is converted into a half-cylinder 550 mm long x 280 mm dia. in a single drawing operation. Material thinning is held to within 8 per cent of the nominal blank thickness during the process, which can run at a production rate of one component per minute.

Initial trials show that savings in production costs are generated, since one complete drawing operation is eliminated together with subsequent intermediate annealing, manufacturing method.

Meanwhile, following exhaustive investigations within worldwide press manufacturing companies, the SMG subsidiary L. Schuler was the preferred choice of Rubery Owen (Metal Assemblies).

Initial trials have vindicated that decision. The application of the hydro-mechanical drawing process to the production of dissolved acetylene cylinders was successfully developed in a co-operative effort by teams from both companies, led by Mr. R. F. Darby, director and general works manager of Rubery Owen (Metal Assemblies) and Mr. H. Molt, head of tooling, production and development of L. Schuler.

Further details from SMG at Sandford Place, Church Street, Salop SY6 6DY. 05932 2532.

ENERGY

Waste oil recovery

DRAIN ON the world's petroleum reserves could be reduced by an estimated 100m barrels a year, according to the Phillips Petroleum Company, which is promoting an improved method of treating waste engine lubricating oils and converting them into high-quality products, rather than burn or dump them.

Based on present lubricating oil prices, if its full potential could be realised, the method could save between \$2bn and \$3bn a year.

PROP, the Phillips Re-refined Oil Process, is intended to convert waste lubricants into products comparable with new oils, but also to be as compatible as possible with environmental demands. It provides chemical demetallisation of contaminants into insoluble precipitates without using strong acids or solvents and metal removal takes place at low pressures and moderate temperatures.

Water removal pre-treatment of the waste oil is not needed, while ash-forming contaminants and residual constituents (metallic additives) are largely removed prior to hydro-treatment.

ing, thus reducing the bulk of filter cake for disposal. Solid wastes from the process are of much smaller volume than the sludges and other solids from older processes. They also exhibit a soil-like neutrality and resistance to soil leaching.

In the process, waste oil is first contacted (in-line blending) with an aqueous solution of diammonium phosphate.

Subsequent reactions result in the formation of metallic phosphates which have low solubility in either water or oil. Water and a significant portion of the fuel diluent are removed in the second and third stages of the reaction.

At this point metal removal is basically complete, except for the zinc and phosphorus present as zinc dithiophosphate—the anti-oxidant additive in the original oil. Temperature cycling brings about thermal degradation of a substantial portion of this compound and agglomerates much of the finely dispersed solids in preparation for their subsequent removal by filtration.

The demetallised and dehydrated oil, with 99 per cent or more of its ash-forming materials removed, is heated, mixed with recirculating hydrogen, percolated through a guard

bed of clay and hydro-treated over a conventional nickel-molybdate catalyst. The guard bed removes traces of inorganics and promotes the decomposition of sulphonic acids.

The finished product is a base oil suitable to use in the blending of motor oils or other lubricants or for marketing as a neutral base oil.

Further data from Phillips Petroleum Company Europe, Africa, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DA. Telephone 01-828 9766.

EFFICIENT STEAM TRAP

STEAM is the most economical method of storing and distributing large amounts of energy for industrial power and heating, but while boiler and turbine manufacturers can contribute to reducing unavoidable losses by better design and selection, avoidable losses remain in the hands of the plant engineer.

Research has shown that by far the greatest contribution to factory fuel losses is inefficient or wrongly selected steam traps, which traditionally have been either mechanical float, bucket

or thermodynamic types. Typical steam losses via a single trap in an industrial process could cost a company upwards of £3,000 per annum.

Bestobell Steam Products, Scotland, part of the £85m International Engineering and Chemical group, has come up with a simple solution, the Delta steam trap, which is a single bladed thermostatic type manufactured at its new £2m plant in Scotland.

The trap has a bimetal element whose delta-like shape deflects in three dimensions, and whose response thanks to the use of two dissimilar grades of stainless steel, one ferritic and the other austenitic, follows the steam temperature-pressure curve.

With increasing temperature the cross-sectional "moment in inertia" of the element increases, linearising the high force which shuts off the valve in linear. The unit automatically optimises its opening position to meet the exact water condensate load to be discharged.

This has resulted in a design of steam trap which eliminates live steam losses and, through the integral strainer, check valve and optional sight glass, minimises installation costs.

Bestobell Steam Products, Livingston, Scotland, Livingston (0589) 30101.

Water removal pre-treatment of the waste oil is not needed, while ash-forming contaminants and residual constituents (metallic additives) are largely removed prior to hydro-treatment.

Business information... where can I get the answers I need?

The Financial Times, as the businessman's newspaper, is probably one of your prime sources of information. But often, you will need to go deeper and cast the net wider; and, to that end, the FT can help you even more by putting its own information centre at your disposal.

Over the years we have built up an extensive library and a network of information contacts which is almost certainly unequalled elsewhere in the business community. We have developed a research centre of people experienced at using these resources and matching them to particular business needs.

This FT information service can now be made available to a further limited number of subscribers who will be given direct access to the research staff through an ex-directory number.

The scope of our service is so broad that it is best explained through demonstration and discussion, but two examples of how our current clients make use of the service may help to clarify the possibilities.

Client A: A Merchant Bank

A merchant bank finds we can supply the back-up information needed to analyse individual companies as prospects for investment and loans. Not only in the form of 'hard' detail on the published financial standing of a company but also the 'soft' information gathered from press coverage of their

CONSTRUCTION

Heat kept at bay

PROMISING a solution to the problems of heat gain and solar glare in contemporary architectural design—particularly in offices, schools, hospitals, hotels, etc., where glass is extensively used—millions of Dutch shipbuilder, Cornelis Verlaine, first introduced Verosol fabric back in the mid-sixties.

It has a "silver lining," actually aluminium... bonded by a secret patented process to thin polyester net. This sun-screen curtaining not only protects against irritating glare, but also prevents the resultant rise in temperature within a building. The latter often has a disturbing effect on the comfort—or in the case of work places—the efficiency of occupants.

The material had an outstanding success in Spain, where it was first introduced, and then proved to be a boon in Europe, the U.S., South America, Australasia and particularly in the Middle East—possibly one of the severest tests of its solar barrier properties.

There is very little loss of light from a semi-translucent version of the curtaining (or blinds made from the material) which allows a pleasant diffused daylight to enter through a window.

Intending to complement the

atmosphere of computer rooms, laboratories, museums, telephone centres, etc., there is now a new range of patterned Verosol made by the company in Enschede, Holland, and marketed in this country by C. Nathan and Co., 24 Lissom Grove, London NW1. (01-282 1121).

Selection includes a choice of floral prints and a striped design, all offering the same solar barrier properties as the company's familiar, original plain-coloured range.

Reverse, or window-side, of all patterns has the uniform silvery sheen of the metallic coating to which the curtains owe their sun-screen properties.

Although the introductory patterns now available have been specifically chosen for their suitability to the British market, says the company, special designs can be produced provided that a sufficient quantity is ordered.

Most production is destined for contract work, yet the appeal of the new patterns inevitably suggests another area for the product—the domestic market. Offering a saving up to 30 per cent of heat loss through windows, Verosol promises an alternative to double-glazing methods for DIY enthusiasts.

IN THE OFFICE



Every two seconds, the plain paper copier shown here will turn out a reproduction of an original which can be a photograph, another photocopy, a manuscript and so on. Olivetti's Copia 2000 will tackle poor quality documents and can cope with a maximum size of A3, automatically printing on both sides of the paper. Up to 99 copies can be turned out in one go on standard bond paper, fed automatically from one of two cassettes. The unit can work in conjunction with the company's on-line sorter with its 20 baskets to provide a complete system with ability to deal with bulky multiple-page documents. British Olivetti on 01-629 8807.

Clean copy made quickly

HIGH QUALITY high speed printers, one aimed at the word processing market and the other at data communications applications have been announced by Centronics Data Computer (UK), Harrington Road, London SW13 9HA (01-581 1011).

Model 753 is claimed to have print quality near to that of the best typewriter reproduction but at the same time has high throughput due to its print rate of 130 to 150 characters per second. Together with proportional spacing to compensate for character size differences and automatic line justification, the machine is likely to be particu-

larly attractive to word processing users. The dot-matrix used is nine dots high and up to 18 wide for large characters, giving dense, well-formed characters.

For data communications work, the 704 produces 70 to 400 lines/min. at a printing speed of 180 cps. A full ASCII set of 96 characters is provided with switch-selectable data rates up to 9600 baud; the standard 256 character buffer can be augmented by an optional 2,000 character page buffer. The communications facilities include a built-in RS-232C/V24 serial interface.

With increasing temperature the cross-sectional "moment in inertia" of the element increases, linearising the high force which shuts off the valve in linear. The unit automatically optimises its opening position to meet the exact water condensate load to be discharged.

This has resulted in a design of steam trap which eliminates live steam losses and, through the integral strainer, check valve and optional sight glass, minimises installation costs.

Bestobell Steam Products, Livingston, Scotland, Livingston (01589) 30101.

Making use of a microcassette, the machine can give an hour's dictation time and is simple to use by virtue of a single slider control for record, stop, re-wind and playback functions. A thumbwheel controls the playback volume; on record, a light-emitting diode is energised and the electret

microphone, with automatic gain control is claimed to be sensitive enough to pick up a whispered conversation at 30 and 8.5 oz.

An optional charger is available if nickel cadmium batteries are used, and the unit can be operated from the mains via an optional adaptor. Other accessories include a personal-listening headset, lapel microphone and telephone pick-up.

More from the UK subsidiary, Lanier Business Products, 100, New King's Road, London SW6 4LX (01-736 0171).

DEVELOPED by EMI Offshore Systems, Alberi Drive, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey (04862 76123), a compact wave height monitor can be bolted to any fixed structure such as an oil rig and pointed at the sea surface to give a reliable and accurate reading of wave height.

Applications will arise in experimental weather-related

structure assessments and in general meteorological work.

Basic of the measurement is the time taken for a transmitted

pulse of infra-red light to be reflected from the sea surface.

A high pulse repetition rate and

SECURITY

Pinpoints a villain

EUPHEMISTICALLY called "shrinkage" and growing at around £50m a year, shoplifting is costing high street stores—and thus in the end the shopper—a staggering £650m annually. Shop-owners have built these losses into the prices they charge and it is estimated that, as a result, these prices are between 2½ and 4 per cent higher than they need be.

A number of attempts have been made to create equipment that will make it particularly difficult to get out of a store with valuable goods by tagging. But where crowds of people flock through a department during peak periods, a great deal of difficulty can be created for store owners where an alarm goes off, but the culprit is in the middle of a bunch of shoppers as he or she would normally take care to be.

Now, a device which is very difficult to shield electronically from detection equipment and not easy to conceal, is being offered with detectors that not only give audible and visual warning that a thief is trying to get away with a tagged object.

A full stopwatch system—as the equipment has been called—in a large store could be expected to pay for itself in 12 to 18 months.

Further details from Parmeko, Percy Road, Leicester LE2 9PT, 0533 832267.

THE M

can now supply a tough, durable

variety for use on doors rather than benches. The company claims that these Velostat mats will not crack due to the wearing effect of chair casters and will accept heavy office traffic.

The new 1850 series of mats, one-eighth inch thick and available in three sizes up to 8 x 4 ft, contain finely embossed material to resist curling and are unaffected by age or room humidity. Each is supplied with a 10 ft earth cord incorporating a 1 megohm resistor.

INSTRUMENT

Finds the wave height

DEVELOPED by EMI Offshore Systems, Alberi Drive, Sheerwater, Woking, Surrey (04862 76123), a compact wave height monitor can be bolted to any fixed structure such as an oil rig and pointed at the sea surface to give a reliable and accurate reading of wave height.

Applications will arise in experimental weather-related

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Basic of the measurement is the time taken for a transmitted

pulse of infra-red light to be reflected from the sea surface.

A high pulse repetition rate and

maximum range of 50 metres

and the overall accuracy is ±1 per cent for operations between 10 and 50 metres. Output is an analogue voltage representing instantaneous wave height.

The compact cast aluminium housing measures only 300 mm by 200 mm and weighs less than 4 kg. A 12-volt DC supply and signal cable enter via a waterproof gland.

The beam width of only one degree ensures that the wave profile is followed accurately. A series of internal filters minimises the effect of sunlight and spurious signals from rain and spray.

Maximum range is 50 metres and the overall accuracy is ±1 per cent for operations between 10 and 50 metres. Output is an analogue voltage representing instantaneous wave height.

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THE MANAGEMENT PAGE

Nicholas Leslie on a rubber company which has put its faith and money behind two entrepreneurs

Venturing into the risky world of travel

IN FIVE to seven years' time David Miller and John Sutcliffe could be wealthy young men. If so, Yule Catto—a company with sizeable interests in Malaysian rubber plantations—will find itself enjoying the fruits of a significant diversification into the travel business.

But there is a long hard road to travel if such success is to materialise. The current position is that, stepping into a field more commonly associated with financial institutions, Yule Catto has provided venture capital to enable Miller and Sutcliffe to acquire Curzon Travel, a small travel agency in Finsbury, just outside London.

The amount involved is £100,000—not an enormous sum, perhaps, in relation to Yule Catto's current substantial liquid resources, but sizeable enough given the risks involved. Yule Catto's sales last year totalled £12.7m, on which it earned pre-tax profits of £2.5m.

There is nothing that immediately sets Curzon apart from other travel agents, other than the fact that it is reasonably profitable. What the investment illustrates is how, in the final analysis, an investor of venture capital can as often put his faith in people as in an idea.

The pay-off for Miller and Sutcliffe will come if they achieve pre-determined levels of profits. Then they can elect

to sell their equity in Yule Catto, which would eventually end up with total control.

This is the first time Yule Catto has become involved in this type of financing, and it has elected to do so with the sort of investment that most financial institutions prefer to avoid (as, indeed, they did in this particular case).

The travel agency involved has, like many others, a small asset base; the industry generally is acknowledged to be something of a minefield; a large number of agencies are reckoned to be barely profitable, and the founder of Curzon has been bought out with Miller and Sutcliffe replacing him as effectively the sole senior management. The two men are completely new to the travel business.

Award

So why has Yule Catto taken such a risky step? (For the answer one must go back to last autumn when Miller and Sutcliffe won the "entrepreneurship and new ventures" section of the Cranfield Management School's annual M&B programme. In this section, spanning half the year-long course, participants are given the opportunity of putting together a thesis on a viable business proposition which, given the opportunity, they could launch as a going concern.)

The success of Miller and Sutcliffe, 32, together with details of their plans for a "One Stop Travel Shop", were outlined on this page on September 19. Miller already had a business background, having several years ago started an employee agency chain which he later sold, though remaining as managing director. He then resigned to attend the

Cransfield MBA course and look for a new career. For 10 years Sutcliffe worked for accountants Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. in their London, Atlanta (U.S.) and Brussels offices and attended Cranfield for reasons similar to Miller's.

John Cox, company secretary of Yule Catto (and also a Cranfield graduate) recognised Sutcliffe as a former colleague at Peat Marwick. He told Annesley Keown, vice-chairman of Yule Catto, and other executive directors of the company about Miller and Sutcliffe's plans and their search for funds. This led to their discussing the project with the company's non-executive directors and setting their agreement to explore the possibility of backing the travel agency—which Miller and Sutcliffe located through their solicitor while at Cranfield.

Until that point Yule Catto had had no thought of travel as an area of diversification, its strategic planning having been aimed primarily at moving into areas related to its existing business. In line with this concept, a move was made last year into export trading. It does, though, have some interest in the leisure industry through ownership of two boat marinas.

Meanwhile, Miller and Sutcliffe, having failed to interest any of the banking organisations they had approached, had already been looking at industrial and other non-financial companies as a possible source of financial backing. They had had some initially positive responses.

When negotiations got under way between Yule Catto and Miller and Sutcliffe, some hard talking ensued. As Kenneth Waters, Yule Catto's finance director (and, incidentally, another business graduate from the London Business School) explains, Miller and Sutcliffe were subjected to a number of "destructive" questions to find weaknesses in their project. Yule Catto, he says, drew on the considerable research done by Miller and Sutcliffe on the travel industry, but still carried out its own research. In so doing it confirmed many of the two men's views, including the reasons why agencies fail—for example, by committing themselves too heavily with such things as forward bookings on hotel rooms and aircraft flights, for which they may then not find enough customers.

Miller makes it clear that Yule Catto is now fully committed to the concept of the travel business, what it is essentially bricking in this case is the people involved. "Our initial reaction to travel agents," he says, "was that a lot of people have burnt their fingers." But, he adds, "these days we've got some new ideas."

These ideas include employing individuals as agents who will work on a commission-only basis, and who will make home

CURZON TRAVEL

AIR SEA RAIL - COACH



John Sutcliffe (left) and David Miller—a long hard road to travel for big success.

calls to sell holidays and travel facilities. Miller maintains that this method is ideal for providing a "tailored" service, while Sutcliffe suggests that this also "extends the selling radius of a shop, which is normally quite narrow."

There are also, quite naturally, plans to expand the amount of business travel Curzon handles—indeed, a start has already been made and they have added such business in the short time since they took over the reins. Business travel, if it is the right mix of short and long haul trips, can be very profitable, but the demands made of an agency by the client company can be considerable. Miller reckons that they will be able to handle any problems that arise and that, as the business grows, more sophisticated systems to ensure a trouble-free service will be introduced.

The smooth handing over of the business from its founder, Mr. A. Curzon, to Miller and Sutcliffe, has just been completed with the ratification of the transfer to its new owners of its International Air Transport Association licence.

But this alone does not enable Curzon to get into the big league on which it has set its eyes. That will require not only the addition of further branches but, more important, also an Air Operator's Licence, which enables the holder to have a direct involvement in tour organisation. Curzon hopes this stage will be reached in the not too distant future. In the meantime, it is working in association with an existing licence holder to give it more flexibility. It is also a member of the Association of British Travel Agents.

Agreement

However, such licences do carry with them a heavy financial obligation in that both require cash bonds to be put up, for example ten per cent of projected annual turnover in the case of the ATOL licence. Miller reckons that Yule Catto's backing will be a major advantage in this respect. The financial agreement reached between Yule Catto and Miller and Sutcliffe gives the former a 55 per cent holding in the £27.500 equity of Curzon—the "trilevel holding" that it has never entered into for a business.

Formula

The formula agreed is that when pre-tax profits of Curzon reach £100,000 Miller and Sutcliffe can sell 20 per cent of the equity to Yule Catto at a price to be determined by an independent valuation. Then, when profits reach £400,000 they can sell the other 25 per cent they own. The decision is entirely their own.

Miller and Sutcliffe have set their sights on hitting the £400,000 profits level within five to seven years. Last year's figure was around £30,000. However, Yule Catto has decided to retain an early let-out agreement. Should it feel that the partnership is not working by this October it can elect to sell its investment to Miller and Sutcliffe, giving them six months to find the necessary money.

Neither Yule Catto nor Miller and Sutcliffe seem to think that this is likely. Keown is fully committed to Curzon and to the prospect of it eventually becoming a significant arm of Yule Catto's business.

Unlike many industrialists, Keown is committed to the concept of industrial companies considering venture capital investment—he feels that if they have sizeable resources, they can afford the risk, and that dealing with such ventures need not take up a disproportionate amount of senior management time.

How Europe's top 100 companies fare in the reporting stakes

BY MARTIN GIBBS

THE most useful book published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is the annual Survey of Published Accounts. This summarises the principal accounting recommendations issued by the Accounting Standards Committee and, with the help of numerous examples, shows how the top 300 UK companies have complied with the recommendations.

Michael Lafferty, who is the Financial Times' accounting and banking correspondent, aided by David Cairns of Stoy Hayward and Jim Cartt, the secretary of the Accounting Standards Committee, has set out to produce an equally useful book covering the top 100 European (including UK) companies. To a large extent he has succeeded.

The first sections of the book deal with accounting policies. Each contains a summary of the relevant recommendation by the International Accounting Standards Committee (by the end of 1978 there were 14 of these) followed by an analysis of the treatment adopted by the survey companies.

Subsequent sections include reproductions of the accounts published by one company from each of the 11 countries covered. These show the balance sheet, profit and loss account, source and application of funds statement, and (in some cases) notes to the accounts. Many readers will be glad to find that they are all in English.

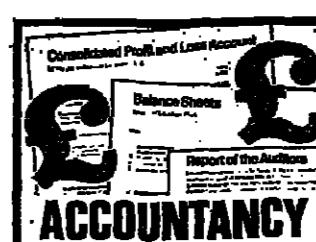
The final sections deal with auditing, the disclosure of financial and non-financial information, and an analysis of the "timeliness" of annual reports.

The latest annual report from each company was assessed on nine criteria (the highest marks were given for full consolidated accounts and disclosure of acceptable accounting policies) and an overall ranking was then obtained. The top company was, not unexpectedly, Philips. The fact that Svenska Cellulosa, a relatively unknown Swedish pulp and paper company, came second is much more surprising.

The top British company was ICI. It was ranked sixth, with Akzo, Unilever, and Royal Dutch-Shell having taken the intervening places.

The countries were ranked in order of quality. The UK came top, followed by the Netherlands. The bottom countries were Spain and Italy.

To avoid hurting anybody's feelings, the wooden spoon was



not awarded. The authors merely content themselves with publishing the names of the twenty-five companies with the worst annual reports.

It appears that there is an inverse correlation between quality and quantity. UK reports which many people in the UK regard as long, turn out to be the shortest in Europe.

They have an average of 35 days, compared with as many as 82 in Italy. The shortest report was that of Great Universal Stores (6 months, 28 days).

The authors admit, however,

that this is a far from perfect basis of comparison. A fairer basis would be the number of days between the year-end and the date of publication of the annual report. This was still only 35 days for Marks and Spencer.

To summarise, the book performs an extremely useful function and although it seems expensive at £7.50 (£8.00 for subscribers to World Accounting Report) it will be indispensable for anyone wishing to see how UK accounting fits into the wider context of European reporting practices. It is only a pity that the quality of the presentation does not match up to the quality of the contents. The pages are reproduced from typescript and bound with a plastic spine. This may well reflect the desire to publish as rapidly as possible but the result is a product whose appearance is much below that of the Chartered Accountants' annual survey of UK accounts.

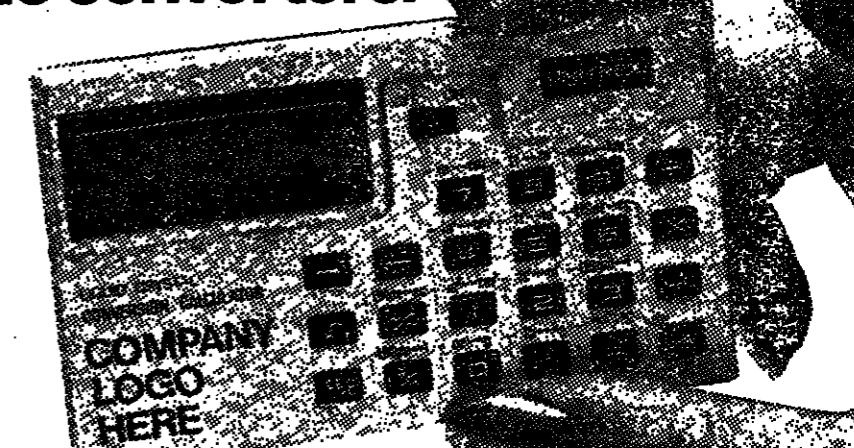
The authors do not commit themselves to following the Chartered Accountants by making their book an annual. However, it is to be hoped that they will do so, since material of this nature dates very rapidly. If further editions are prepared, consideration should be given to widening the scope of the book by including some of the other major countries, such as the U.S. and Japan, possibly at the expense of some of the smaller European countries.

Accounting is becoming increasingly international and to take anything less than a global view of reporting practices seems too parochial.

1979 Financial Times Survey of 100 Major European Companies' Reports and Accounts. By Michael Lafferty with David Cairns and James Cartt, FT Business Publishing, Minster House, Arthur Street, London EC4, 275.

Martin Gibbs is a partner in stockbrokers Phillips and Drew.

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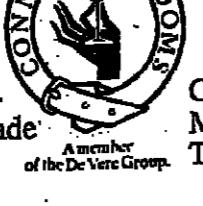
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THE ARTS

حکایت از اینجا

New York theatre



Building the Boat, Tréboul 1930, by Christopher Wood

The Fitzwilliam, Cambridge/Minories, Colchester

Tolly's Prize Day

by WILLIAM PACKER

A day in the country, which is to say out of London, is always welcome, and both Cambridge and Colchester have more than enough to tempt the occasional visitor: north and east; and to historical and architectural pleasures we can now add those of modern English art. With its second showing, the Tolly Cobbold National Exhibition becomes a most important fixture in the calendar, a biennial open competition with prize money attached sufficient to tempt even the most blasé and successful of our artists. The six awards of £1,000 apiece are well worth the winning, while Eastern Arts has chipped in a further £500 to go to an artist working in the regions. The strength of the submission thus attracted is reflected in the work now on show at the Fitzwilliam Museum (until May 6, then on tour to Norwich, Ipswich, Camber and Sheffield).

Touring naturally suggests certain limitations and with the works restricted in size the opportunity has been taken (which was turned up last time) to show nearly 100 works, without any undue congestion. Inevitably a show like this must present an arbitrary and partial view of the work now being done, the jury itself an arbitrary mixture of taste and

judgment, but here such variety is tempered by the general high tone of the work both in terms of seriousness and quality. There are few surprises, the best things all by artists who have made some reputation, the winners all well known, if not to the general public at least to the inner art world.

Not all the prizes would be where they are now had I had any say, but that is a personal response, not a criticism. I do believe, however, that it is the nature of the exercise for members of the jury to grow fiercely partisan as a show is whittled down to its final state. It might be better to invite them back another day to hand out the cash, or to ask another jury altogether. My personal disappointments then, rest with Adriana Berg, Henry Inlander and Maggie Hambling among the figurative painters, all of whom I felt deserved some reward, and with John Groom, whose work is evidently maturing remarkably quickly, and John Carter, among the abstract. But I was very pleased for Patrick Hughes, with his genial off-duty sun, Matt Rugg, and finally Keith Milow, whose relief crosses impress me more and more; all of them winners. We have long needed a serious Open Event in the

south to run counter-point with the admirable John Moores; and now we seem to have it. We must congratulate Tolly Cobbold for its most imaginative and valuable patronage, and Eastern Arts and the Arts Council for having the sense to help.

*

Across in Colchester, at the week (and then on to Durham, Aberdeen, Eastbourne and Exeter) is a well-chosen Arts Council show of the work of Christopher Wood. Though retrospective, it concentrates on Wood's last year or two of almost frenzied activity before his suicide on Salisbury Station in mid-1930. He was close to many of the leading artists of the time, notably Picasso and Cocteau, and the French influence is strong in his work. With Ben Nicholson, he was the first to come across the old fisherman, Alfred Wallis, in St. Ives, whose primitive vision affected him deeply. In his last years, especially, he worked extensively in Cornwall and Brittany, and the paintings he made of the fishing villages along those coasts remain collectively his strongest work, direct and deceptively simple statements of his own sophisticated but not ardent second husband, the chemist Leo. Voodoo spirits are called for in lively numbers like

To the detriment of those cities' cultural life, Broadway plays no longer regularly pass through Boston and Philadelphia on try-out tours. Cancelling the tours, which had become prohibitively expensive, forced producers to find other ways to get their shows ready for New York openings. After Michael Bennett's first play, *A Chorus Line*, was nurtured in Joseph Papp's Shakespeare Festival, the playwright tried to get the same feel by opening his second, *Ballroom*, in an uptown church hall before venturing on to Broadway with it.

A number of plays still come routed through Washington because Roger Stevens at the Kennedy Center there produces plays he expects to send on to New York. He seems to specialise in British productions, having brought over a number of Royal Shakespeare Company works and, recently, giving Alan Ayckbourn's *Bedroom Farce* a last look before sending it on towards success in New York.

Sarara, an amusing musical based on Jorge Amado's *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands* (a film preceded this musical incarnation), opened in Boston to heartless reviews. The producers promptly closed the show there and moved it immediately to New York, where an effective television advertising campaign brought large audiences to a try-out period that essentially began on Broadway. To the ire of local critics, opening night was repeatedly postponed, since the play was drawing sufficient business not to make the management want to risk adverse reviews. The critics for the three major New York papers voted to review the play on one of the opening nights, eventually postponed, causing a controversy on the rights of

"I'm looking for a Man" and the set by Santo Loquasto, which consists of small locations played in front of the backdrop of a grand receding horizon, contributed greatly to the play's evocative good mood.

As an expensive, flashy musical, it is just this kind of production that used to benefit enormously from a long, itinerant try-out period.

Producers increasingly let off Broadway productions serve as their try-outs at no risk to themselves. The show is picked up after its opening and the critics' views are in. A successful off-Broadway run nowadays has a good chance of being selected for a commercial production. While being an excellent boost to the fortunes and prestige of off-Broadway, the new system has disadvantages, too. We are now witnessing the elevation of a profusion of small productions to Broadway status.

Wings, Arthur Kopit's

essentially one-role enactment

of a stroke victim's experience, started as a modest production in New Haven. Constance Cummings has already brought it to New York for a limited run off-Broadway, and it comes back again now in the Lyceum, one of Broadway's large theatres.

The play, beautifully written and acted as it is, projects a private vision of the world, one that does badly at rattling round a large stage. The loss of verbal skills is effectively rendered with doctors periodically lapsing into incomprehensible gibberish, as does the victim, former aviatrix whose active life makes the affliction all the more unbearable.

The play provides little in the way of action. When the stage briefly fills up with other hospital patients there is some relief to the unmitigated frustration we witness when the focus remains too closely confined. Even at close range, Miss Cummings' small movements and gestures, her averted stare and fidgeting in a chair, do not come across so well on a large stage meant for gestures visible at greater range.

The new importance of off-Broadway has brought particular attention to the Hudson Guild Theatre, which generated two current Broadway produc-

tions: the award-winning *Da*

and the recently opened *On Golden Pond*. Besides these the 30-year-old theatre director, Craig Anderson, brought nonagenarian George Abbott in to direct a political comedy,

Winning Isn't Everything, and

premiered the latest Tennessee

Williams play, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, with Mr. Anderson himself directing.

On Golden Pond is now play-

ing at the recently re-opened New Apollo Theatre, the first "new" Broadway theatre in over 30 years and a triumph for the legitimate stage against the "sin house" movies on 42nd Street from which fate the theatre was rescued. Concerned with an elderly couple spending their 48th summer together at their summer house in Maine, the play provides a portrait of a perfect ascerbic frail old man in the character of Norman Thayer, Jr., as played by Tom Aldredge.

Remarks against every conceivable minority make an otherwise likeable old man fall into bigoted clichés from time to time, but ordinarily he is gently handled by his livelier wife, Ethel, played by Frances Sternhagen.

Into their insular world comes a daughter, Chelsea, bringing in tow her latest middle-aged boyfriend and his son, Billy, who will stay with the old couple while Chelsea and her mate go off to Europe. Young Billy, played with an accurate lapse into taciturnity and clichés, gradually comes to read books (!), go fishing and get some activity out of the old man. By the time the summer ends, playwright Edward Thompson convinces us, Billy departs for home in California looking forward as much as Norman does to their

The Hudson Guild has earned its place as a Broadway pipeline with Craig Anderson's announced concern, demonstrated in *On Golden Pond*, to "paint humanity as being positive and constructive."

The play is dissolved in a substantiation of traditional values, quirky but reliable characters and an appeal to sheer sentiment.

Tennessee Williams' latest play, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, must unfortunately be considered another example of the same elements.

Meantime, the musical itself has modest, though lavish, ambitions which it amply fulfills. The choreography and direction by Rick Atwell combine the Latin-disco beat of the story's Brazilian setting with a touching performance by Tovah Feldshuh as *Dona Flor* and Michael Ingram as her conscientious but not ardent second husband, the chemist Teo. Voodoo spirits are

called for in lively numbers like



Constance Cummings and Mary-Joan Negro in 'Wings'

action of the play consists of doing morning exercises while opposite, being concerned with the campaign headquarters doings of a small-time politician trying to make it in the big time. A plethora of events is extremely well managed by the director, who has lost none of his deft touch through the years, and the play, though more frivolous than substantial, shows the playwright's familiarity with American politics (where he himself worked on numerous campaigns) and the demands of the stage. Threatened divorce by the candidate's wife and the sexual, as well as political, demands of an important potential supporter give the play plenty of plot and lots of room for the well-co-ordinated cast to move around in.

Lee Kalchein's play, *Winning Isn't Everything*, is just the

Festival Hall

Mahler 2

by ANDREW CLEMENTS

It may be that any performance of Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony* on Palm Sunday is already three parts of the way to being a triumph before it starts, without the considerable advantages of Claudio Abbado as conductor, the London Symphony Orchestra on its keenest form, and a pair of top-flight soloists. Equally, it is almost impossible not to be moved by a performance of the *Resurrection* for all its bombast and theatricality, its blatant substitution of programmatic linking for thorough-going organic structure. In the Second Symphony, Bruno Walter suggested, "Mahler asks the reason for the

tragedy of human existence and is sure its justification is to be found in immortality." You may not accept Mahler's message, but you cannot fail to respond to the exhilaration with which he delivers it.

If he has not attained the status already, Abbado is fast becoming one of the finest Mahler conductors of the present time. His approach is an effective blend of the operatic and the symphonic, mixing the flamboyant with the devotional, the analytical with the symphonic if he were charting a course through a grand opera. It is an achievement which even contrived to make the Technicolor

minute replacement for Lucia Valenti; as honeyed of tone as ever, rapt in the *Das Knaben Wunderhorn* incandescence of the fourth-movement *Uhrlicht*. Here Abbado surrounded here with a gloriously rich web of sound, though elsewhere in these three central movements his conducting seemed a shade equivocal, as if disappointed that they did not contain the challenge of the first and last. Barbara Hendricks was not surprisingly a little in Miss Norman's shade but she combined well with the LSO Chorus, a more alert, enthusiastic group than when last I heard them.

Jessye Norman was the bonus mezzo-soprano soloist, a last-

Elizabeth Hall

English Chamber Orchestra

by DAVID MURRAY

For the ECO concert Friday night Murray Perahia was billed as "director/solist" and one expected him to appear before the two Mozart piano concertos to direct Bartok's *Divertimento for strings*. In fact the Bartok was played without a conductor—a riskyfeat, and entirely successful. The interplay between solo passages and tuttis was crisply defined, and no hint of caution blurred the rhythmic snap of the music. There were

laggards at the rear desks. Only the four violins seemed too few: their playing was as brightly characterised as the rest, but against 14 violins and four cellos they were a little underweighted.

The energetic, martial opening of the first of Mozart's three mature concertos in C would have needed Mr. Perahia's prompting; and he chose to treat the piano part with reflective delicacy, as much in the outer movements as in the limp *Andante*. It was of this concerto and its two companions of 1782-83 that Mozart boasted, "There are passages

written in such a way that the less learned cannot fail to be pleased, though without knowing why." No such finesse went unremarked by Perahia, who saw to it that the less learned couldn't miss them. One more degree of self-consciousness might have been excessive, but he stopped just short of that, and the overt subtleties were delightful.

The E-flat Concerto K482—a less "objective" reading than Richter's of a few days earlier—was distinguished by a particularly lovely *Andante*. Both the Allegros were freshly witty. A captions critic might enter a small reservation about Perahia's trick of making an expressive surprise by dropping away at the natural peak of a phrase, which he indulged from his first entry—but he does it very winningly. One would be lucky to hear a happier performance.

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Radio 3

Bartok and Mozart

by MAX LOPPERT

Bartok's *Contrasts* for piano and Zsuzsanna Sirokay, clarinet (Thea King), and violin (Erich Gruenberg) opened yesterday's BBC lunchtime recital broadcast from St. John's, Smith Square. The title of Bartok's marvellous small suite of character pieces might also have served as the recital's own subtitle—though in this sense the contrasts were those of performance style, and not always conferred with absolute subtlety on the music. The work was neatly sprung and sounded, on its own terms an agile account of the humours and poetry of village life that Bartok evoked in two framing dances and a central slow movement; but there appeared to be no single dramatic impetus inspiring and relating the three players.

Miss King's clarinet was smooth and fleet, Mr. Gruenberg's violin very precise, if insufficiently gutsy; it was hard to prevent memory of the two original (and very different) from intruding, though without knowing why. No such finesse went unremarked by Perahia, who saw to it that the less learned couldn't miss them. One more degree of self-consciousness might have been excessive, but he stopped just short of that, and the overt subtleties were delightful.

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On Saturday Frans Brüggen gave a solo recital, accompanied only by himself on a huge gong in the last work. Though rich, the programme was not long: a single recorder, or rather a single player with several recorders, cannot play on and on.

The three 16th-century Ricercate with which he began displayed his finely modelled tone and water-drop staccato, as well as his immunity to the all too familiar hazards which beset lesser recorder players. In Jacob van Eyck's "Amarilli mia Bella" he offered a marvellously sensuous pastoral line that swayed and looped with instinctive freedom—just how a native wood-note wild should sound. A G minor Suite by Jean-Féry Rebel, like the flute Partita by his near-contemporary Bach, showed off Brüggen's inimitable rhythmic energy and clarity, though those were wholly at the

City Arts Trust has first full-time administrator

The City Arts Trust, which promotes the arts within the City of London, has appointed its first full-time administrator, Miss Virginia Harding. From 1973 to 1978 Miss Harding was responsible for the administration of the biennial

rehearsals of the music. Rebel's Passacaglia inspired an astonishing range of tone-colour and attack.

The Bach was substituted for a promising-sounding multiple piece by Vivaldi Rousseau and Brüggen himself, which required electronics that couldn't be made to function. That left only Maki Ishii's "Black Interior" to represent the 20th century. It began with pentatonic permutations on a tiny recorder (soprano? soprano?); presently Brüggen placed a second recorder to his lips, too, and maintained a corybantic duet with himself for some time. It rose to a shrill climax marked by an almighty crash from the gong mentioned earlier, and diminished to a solo which retreated, a little more chromatically, to whence the music had come. There was some honest musical conviction in it, and it made a splendid turn.

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Inflation: the second wave

THE GOVERNOR of the Swiss central bank is reported to have been rather hurt at a recent meeting with his opposite numbers when his complaint that the Swiss inflation rate had doubled won no sympathy at all from his colleagues. It is now expected to reach 2 per cent. British observers will probably feel a similar lack of sympathy for the German authorities, faced with a warning from their own forecasting organisations that inflation there may pass 4 per cent in the coming year. In this context, the latest figures from the UK economy are only reassuring in the most temporary sense. It may after all be another month or two before we are back in double figures.

Oil impact

It is true, of course, that although our figures are so much worse than those in the stabbest countries, they are no longer the most worrying in the developed world as they were two or three years ago. The most recent inflation figures from the U.S., France and Italy have been worse.

In the industrialised world as a whole, on the other hand, the combined effects of the dollar crisis last year and the crisis in Iran this year are now clearly causing a secondary wave of inflation, similar in principle to the one which undermined the world economy in 1974, but much smaller.

The figures now appearing in the forecasts may look quite modest to British readers, but unhappily they are probably too low to be taken as a guide. When inflation is internationalised, as at present, there is a cumulative effect—as rising prices in one country appear in the import bills of others—which is not captured in the early warning figures.

Of course, where these movements are offset by exchange rate changes, there are no international repercussions. Japanese goods will be cheaper, not dearer. If the 15 per cent decline in the external value of the yen which has occurred since October is consolidated, the recent stabilisation of the dollar has led to a sharp reversal of exchange rate trends between third countries, as markets have again begun to respond to interest rate differentials.

Party feuding in France

IT IS now more than twelve months since President Giscard d'Estaing's Centre-Right coalition beat off the most serious left-wing challenge in French national elections for twenty years. But the reverberations are still rumbling through the French political system. Last week saw relations between the two main coalition partners, Giscardians and Gaullists, reach a new degree of acrimony as M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, stepped up his long-running campaign against M. Giscard d'Estaing. Anxious to undermine the President's image as a winner in advance of June's European elections, and looking further ahead to the Presidential race in 1981, M. Chirac predicted that M. Giscard d'Estaing would lose his re-election campaign unless he changed his policies.

Opposition

But dissension in the governing majority is matched by equal disarray in the ranks of the opposition. Socialists and Communists have still not made up the quarrel that helped to ensure last year's defeat, and the Socialists are showing an increasing tendency to parade their internal differences in public. Their weekend National Congress in Metz, at which they failed to agree on a compromise common programme, is the latest and most serious example. The split is particularly damaging for the Party in that it confirms the sharp political and personal differences between M. Francois Mitterrand, the Party leader, and his main rival, M. Michel Rocard.

Until the weekend, the Socialists were riding high on the results of last month's cantonal elections, which substantiated their claim to be the country's biggest party—at least at local level. M. Mitterrand went into the National Congress with reason to be confident of easy victory in his bid to retain control over his party. He has, in the end, retained his position as First Secretary—but at the cost of losing his overall majority support. The unresolved argument between his supporters and those of M. Rocard can only damage the party's credibility in the run-up to the European elections, and, in the longer term, M. Mitterrand's chances of winning another chance to contest the Presidency.

THE NUCLEAR accident in Pennsylvania and the swift cancellation by the New York State Power Authority of a nuclear plant of the same design and maker are events bound to encourage other electrical utilities to look again at coal. In Britain, when the nuclear accident happened, public interest was beginning to refocus on coal as a potentially disturbing substance for the environment. The last time this happened in Britain it led to the Clean Air Act of 1956. Severe restrictions were imposed on the freedom to burn coal in urban areas, but since then the coal industry, an influential employer, has enjoyed relative immunity from political criticism.

Now two national inquiries into future plans for coal and its use in Britain are being launched by the Government. Their outcome could have far-reaching consequences for many countries which, like Britain, are putting their faith in the "coconut" (coal-conservation-nuclear) strategy for long-term guarantees of adequate energy supplies. One inquiry is the Belvoir public inquiry into the National Coal Board's plans to open three new pits totalling 7.5m tonnes of annual output. The preliminary hearing begins next month, to be followed by the full-scale inquiry in the autumn.

New nit inquiry

The NCB will say that it needs these new pits in an area of Leicestershire with no previous history of coal-mining, to supply the big coal-fired power stations of the East Midlands whose present sources will be nearly exhausted in another decade.

The second inquiry has already begun. It is the Coal Study by the Commission on Energy and the Environment, an interdepartmental body set up by the Departments of Energy and the Environment. Its chairman is Lord (formerly Sir Brian) Flowers, physicist and rector of Imperial College, London. This commission has planned a two-year investigation of coal—the environmental impact of its production, supply, conversion and use. As a start it is asking the organisations most conspicuously concerned with these matters, such as the NCB itself and its principal customers, to submit papers on which they can be questioned, in order to try to focus on any areas of genuine concern.

Last week it was the turn of the Central Electricity Generating Board to be questioned. The CEBG is the biggest of the NCB's customers and will burn 70m-80m tonnes of coal this year in its power stations. The lower figure, according to CEBG estimates, will release into the atmosphere about 2m tonnes of sulphur dioxide—about 35 per cent of the total UK emissions of this pollutant in Britain. The balance comes from the burning of oil, 1.7m coal burnt by other power station operators, and from the steel industry. Sulphur dioxide is not the only toxic substance released by the burning of coal, but it is the most controversial one.

British steam coal, which averages 1.6 per cent sulphur, is acknowledged to be responsible for a significant fraction of all releases of sulphur dioxide. A recent OECD study, Clean Fuel Supply, estimates that Europe is currently releasing about 20m tonnes a year. By 1985 it finds, the 24 OECD nations of the world—which include the U.S. and Japan—will be releasing 57m tonnes a year. The study says that sulphur dioxide releases remained steady from 1968 to 1974, despite an increase of 26 per cent in fossil-fuel consumption. But the authors believe that releases will increase by another 23 per cent by 1985 unless there is heavy investment in new technology to hold down emissions. They estimate that it will be costing Europe an additional \$1.55 billion a year from 1985 merely to hold sulphur dioxide releases at today's levels.

Power station emissions

About two-thirds of Britain's electricity comes from the burning of coal. That proportion will decline only slowly during the next decade or two as more nuclear stations come into service. The CEBG estimates that the cost of removing 90 per cent of the sulphur dioxide from its power station emissions would add 25-30 per cent to the cost of generating electricity in these stations. It questions whether that premium is worth paying. (It may, however, seem modest

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It is also undoubtedly a toxin in high concentrations. How difficult it is for scientists to set safe limits is shown by differences by a factor of 20 between what different countries consider the acceptable average daily concentration.

The British electricity supply has long put its faith in what is often known as the "tall-stack policy." After a flirtation at two London stations with a technology called flue gas desulphurisation, which washes sulphur and other pollutants from the boiler exhaust fumes, it settled instead for very tall chimneys for its new stations. Fumes cooled and damped by washing, it says, prove more objectionable to those living nearby than untreated fumes. Washed fumes descend rapidly to the ground, bearing an inevitable residue of sulphur.

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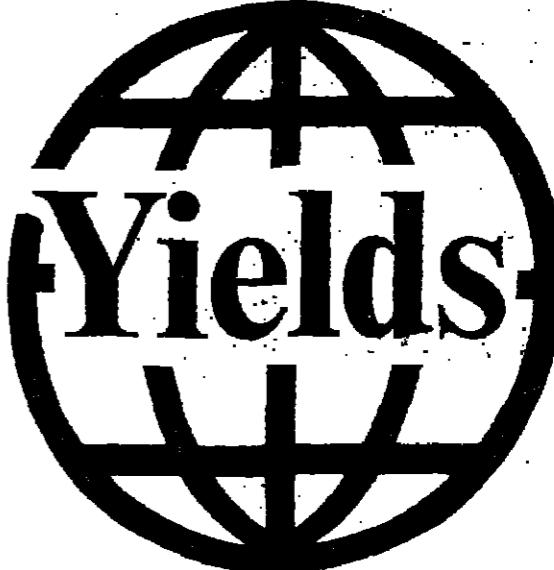
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Eurobond Quotations and Yields

AIBD

THE ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL BOND DEALERS

At 30th MARCH, 1979

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The Association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers on the last working day of each month. There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading business is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres. Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1968) comprises over 450 institutions from about 27 countries.

Eurobonds in March

BY FRANCIS GHILES

March will be remembered in the international bond markets as the month during which the threat of further rises in inflation and interest rates combined with the rise in oil prices, troubled the hard currency sectors of the market. Yen, Deutsche-Mark and Swiss Francs.

The dollar sector witnessed a steady rise in prices with intermittent buying pressure. A steady dollar and the general easing of interest rates has

helped maintain a strong under-tone. The sterling sector meanwhile has been through something of a boom riding on the crest of a strong gilt market and a rising currency.

In the hard currency sector, the Swiss Franc sector was one of the hardest hit: by the middle of the month, investors could no longer see the justification in currency terms for the sharp disparity between yields on Swiss Franc bonds and those on dollar issues. The outlook for

rising interest rates thus made the Swiss Franc bond market very vulnerable.

Although bond prices recovered briefly at the end of the third week in March following the decision by the big three Swiss banks to freeze all new straight issues bar one before Easter, the fall in prices resumed in the middle of the following week. By last week, many issues had reached their lowest level for a long time: the recent public issue for

Australia was quoted as low as 95.

The decision to freeze new straight issues, followed a week later by a decision of the same three banks to curtail the number of Japanese convertibles brought to an end a period of two and half months in which the Swiss market had been the norm.

The steady recovery of dollar bond prices and of the U.S. currency hastened the débâcle: this recovery did not help the DM sector which despite its faring better in the later part of March weakened again at the beginning of April. The amount of new issues agreed by the capital markets sub-committee on March 24 was set at a maximum of DM 770m, including the issues for supranational bodies which are not technically included in the calendar of new issues.

The diverging interest of lenders and borrowers showed at first in disagreement over maturity rather than rates. Investors reluctance to tie up funds too long at prevailing yields was very strong: this led to the maturity on both the Canadian and Australian public bonds to be trimmed from 15 to 10 years. It had been the short maturity of the Carter notes which made them so attractive in January.

Both these issues were under-subscribed with in view of the poor state of the market and the size of the issues is not entirely surprising.

At the end of the month, coupons on Japanese convertibles were steadily moving

up. Rhythm Watch was the first company to arrange a convertible which included a coupon of 3½ per cent. In the month or so before the end of March a coupon of 3½ per cent on Japanese convertibles had been the norm.

The Canadian dollar market was reopened at the end of March with three new issues, after being closed for 18 months. The new issues were all well received with the one for Hudson's Bay Co. being increased in two stages to C\$60m. The biggest issue in Canadian dollar was announced at the beginning of April, a C\$80m offering for the Royal Bank of Canada.

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The reopening of this sector was made possible by the improvement of the Canadian dollar since the beginning of March. The Canadian currency stood at C\$0.83 against the dollar at the beginning of March but had moved up to C\$0.86 by the end of the month.

This improvement is reinforced for the investor by the higher yield he can get on the new Canadian dollar issues than on recent U.S. dollar ones. Nor is the possibility of a further reappreciation of the currency not absent from the minds of at least some of the buyers of Canadian dollar bonds.

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The table of quotations and yields gives the latest rates available on 30th March, 1979. This information is from reports from official and other sources which the Association considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not guarantee that the information it contains is accurate or complete.

All rates quoted are for indication purposes only and are not based on nor are they intended to be used as a basis for particular transactions. In quoting the rates the Association does not undertake that its members will trade in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association's members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.

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U.S. \$50,000,000

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Trade Development Bank Holding S.A.

Highlights of the year

of Republic National Bank of New York in Hong Kong.

1978 was marked by serious disturbances in the monetary and political scenes and lower margins on international credits. However, we were able to maintain profitability and minimize risk by careful cost control, diversified lending and the exercise of our specialized skills in trade finance "a forfait", gold, foreign exchange and the wholesaling of banknotes.

The Board is recommending the payment of an increased dividend of US\$ 0.65 per share, compared with US\$ 0.55 per share paid in the previous year.

19th March, 1979

EDMOND J. SAFRA
Chairman

Consolidated balance sheet as at 31st December, 1978

	31st December 1978	1977	
	US\$ 000's	US\$ 000's	
Assets			
Cash in hand and balances with banks	1,709,951	1,006,504	
Bank certificates of deposit	407,920	324,525	
Precious metals	*153,259	*113,781	
Financial paper	419,657	390,864	
Government and municipal bonds (USA and UK)	359,373	307,775	
Securities	251,506	311,314	
Current accounts and advances to customers	1,772,896	1,577,755	
Investments	5,109	5,086	
Fixed assets	62,233	42,642	
Other assets	130,286	88,361	
	5,272,190	4,168,407	
Liabilities			
Deposits, balances due to customers and inner reserves	4,611,794	3,498,442	
Other liabilities	170,581	236,569	
	4,782,175	3,735,011	
Capital and loan funds:			
Sinking Fund Notes 2002	30,000	6,000	
Sinking Fund Debentures 2001	50,000	50,000	
Sinking Fund Debentures 2002	35,000	35,000	
Convertible Subordinated Capital Notes 1997	—	12,490	
Other loans	47,873	40,000	
Minority interests	108,854	96,576	
Shareholders' funds:			
Share Capital	24,605	24,605	
Reserves	193,683	168,925	
Total shareholders' funds	218,288	193,530	
Total capital and loan funds employed	490,015	453,396	
	5,272,190	4,168,407	
Contingent liabilities:			
Letters of credit and guarantees	195,897	165,481	

For the year ended 31st December

	1978	1977
Net earnings after taxes, minority interests and transfer to inner reserves (US\$ 000's)	53,690	28,566
Earnings per share	US\$ 2.05	US\$ 1.74
Number of shares outstanding	16,403,300	16,403,300

Principal Subsidiaries

Trade Development Bank, Geneva • Republic National Bank of New York, New York
Other affiliates and offices in: Beirut, Bogota, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Chisinau, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, London, Luxembourg, Mexico City, Miami, Montevideo, Nassau, Panama City, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Tokyo.

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Market Makers in
Floating Rate Note Issues

The interest rates per annum applicable to the following US\$ Floating Rate Note issues were announced during March. These rates are quoted for information purposes only, and should be confirmed prior to the execution of a specific transaction. The rates quoted apply to the six-month periods shown.

	From	To	Rate
BNP	1983	1 Mar 79	1 Sept 79
Hapcalin Int'l	1982	8 Mar 79	8 Sept 79
Citicorp (over 3 month LIBOR)	1994	8 Mar 79	10 June 79
Bg. Louis-Dreyfus	1983	13 Mar 79	12 Sept 79
Kingdom of Thailand	1984	15 Mar 79	15 Sept 79
Leumi Int'l	1981	15 Mar 79	17 Sept 79
Leumi Int'l	1984	15 Mar 79	17 Sept 79
Nippon Credit	1983	15 Mar 79	18 Sept 79
Sumitomo Hvy. Inds.	1983	16 Mar 79	16 Sept 79
BNP	1981	18 Mar 79	18 Sept 79
Urquijo Int'l	1986	21 Mar 79	21 Sept 79
Emptrol	1986	21 Mar 79	21 Sept 79
Bco. Nac. Argentina	1986	22 Mar 79	22 Sept 79
UBAF (61% min.)	1982	26 Mar 79	26 Sept 79
Allied Irish Banks	1982	28 Mar 79	28 Sept 79
UOB (over 3 month LIBOR)	1989	29 Mar 79	29 June 79
General Cable	1980	30 Mar 79	28 Sept 79

Interest rates applicable to the issues listed below will be announced during April.

	1982/83
Bca. Comm. Italiana	1981
IFCCE	1983
Bg. Nat. d'Algérie	1982
Bank of Tokyo Holdings	1981
Bank of Tokyo Holdings	1983
Banco Union	1983
Beogradska Banka	1983
GZB	1983
Int'l Westminster Bank	1984
Oest. Kontrollbank	1988/89
Societe Generale	1984
Sundsvallsbanken	1985
Union Bank of Finland	1982
Rep. of Costa Rica	1985
Ishikawajima Harima	1985
SOTFE	1983
Texas Int'l Airlines	1986

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l'Investissement (B.A.I.I.)
235 Banque de l'Union Européenne
238 Banque Louis-Dreyfus
208 Banque Nationale de Paris
210 Credit Commercial de France Paris
215 Crédit Lyonnais
215 E. F. Hutton Services S.A.R.L.
220 Internationale Banque
270 Smith Barney Harris, Upham & Co.
Inc.

REGION 3 - GERMANY/AUSTRIA

300 Commerzbank AG
305 Deutsche Bank AG
306 Dresdner Bank AG
307 Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale
309 Creditanstalt Bankverein
310 Girozentrale und Bank
der Österreichischen Sparkassen AG

REGION 4 - ITALY

405 Banca Commerciale Italiana Milan
407 Banco Ambrosiano S.p.A.
409 Banco di Roma
415 Credito Italiano
420 Istituto Bancario Italiano
425 Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Terme
430 Monte dei Paschi di Siena

REGION 5 - LUXEMBOURG

505 Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A.
510 Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A.
540 Bayerische Landesbank International S.A.
515 Dewey Luxembourg S.A.
520 Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourgeoise
530 Swiss Bank Corporation (Luxembourg)

REGION 6 - NEHEM-LANDS

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601 Algemene Bank Nederland N.V.
602 Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V.
603 Bank Mees & Hope N.V.
604 Barclays A/S & Co. N.V.
611 Centrale Rabobank Utrecht
612 Bank Van Der Hoop Offers N.V.
605 Bank Morgan Labouchere N.V.
610 Bank van Lunsche N.V.
606 Nederlandse Middenstandsbank N.V.
607 Nederlandse Creditbank N.V.
608 Pierson, Heldring & Pierson
609 Slavenburg, Oyens & Van Eeghen N.V.

REGION 7 - SCANDINAVIA

705 Bank of Helsinki Ltd. (Helsingfors Aktiebank)
765 Bergen Bank
740 Den norske Creditbank
750 Den Danske Bank of 1871 Aktieselskab
710 R. Henriques Jr. Bank Aktieselskab
715 Kansallis-Osake-Pankki

REGION 11 - MIDDLE EAST

720 Klægenhavns Handelshank
745 Postbanken Aktieselskab
735 Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken
735 Union Bank of Finland (Nordiska Föreningensbanken AB)

REGION 8 - SWITZERLAND

800 Bondpartner S.A.
803 Credit Suisse/Swiss Credit Bank
820 Swiss Bank Corporation
870 Union Bank of Switzerland

REGION 9 - UNITED KINGDOM

901 Akroyd & Smithers Limited
902 Bank of America International Ltd.
903 Bank Julius Baer International
905 Bankers Trust International Limited
910 Banque Francaise de Credit International Ltd.

906 Chase Manhattan Ltd.
908 Chemical Bank International Ltd.
911 Citicorp International Bank Limited
912 Continental Illinois Limited
914 Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd.

913 Haifa Europe N.V.
915 Deltek Trading Company Limited
920 Dillon, Read Overseas Corporation
922 Dominion Securities Limited
925 European Banking Company Ltd.

930 First Chicago Limited
931 Goldman Sachs International Corp.

932 Hambros Bank Limited
933 IBM International Limited

934 Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd.

935 Kidder Peabody Securities Limited

936 Leibniz, Loeb, Loeb & Co.

937 Kuhn, Loeb Lehman Brothers Inc.

938 Manufacturers Hanover Limited

937 MacLeod Young, Weir International Limited

940 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith (Brokers & Dealers) Ltd.

941 Morgan Stanley International

945 Nesbit, Thomson Limited

942 The Nikko Securities Co. (Europe) Ltd.

943 Nomura Europe N.V.

945 Orion Bank Limited

946 Pluchette, Denny & Co.

947 Salomon Brothers International Ltd.

950 Samuel Montagu & Co. Ltd.

955 Scandinavian Bank Limited

960 Strauss, Turnbull & Co.

962 Sumitomo Financial International

964 Vickers da Costa & Co. Ltd.

965 S. W. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

967 Wedd Duracher Mordaunt Ltd.

970 Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale

975 White Weld Securities

977 M. S. Wein & Co. Inc.

980 Wood Gundy Ltd.

990 Yamazaki International (Europe) Ltd.

REGION 10 - UNITED STATES

10 Arnhold and S. Bleichroeder, Inc.
20 Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc.
30 Kidder, Peabody & Co. Inc.
32 Lehman Bros. Kuhn, Loeb Inc.
33 Lazarus Frères & Co.
35 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.
60 Salomon Brothers

80 Atlantic Capital Corporation

REGION 12 - JAPAN

005 The Arab Co. for Trading Securities S.A.K.

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Tel. 01-493 9127 or 01-491 4774 Telex 8811055

JAPANESE DOLLAR DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS

Close at 3/4/79	Close at 3/4/79	Close at 3/4/79
Honda \$21.79	Makita \$29.2	Sony \$84
Ita-Vokado \$69.10	Murata \$4.40	Taisho Marine \$102
Jusco \$45.37	Nippon Meat \$TDK	Packers \$81
Komatsu \$2.71	Tokyo Sanyo \$2.00	Forklift \$27.41
Kubota \$26.35	Renown \$3 Wacoal	\$22.5

INVESTMENT FUNDS

The following funds include Eurobond issues within their portfolios
Quotations & Yields as at 30th March, 1979

SOCIETE GENERALE De BANQUE

BANQUE GENERALE DU LUXEMBOURG

Fund	Price	First Issue Price	Yield %	Div. Date
Rendinvest	LuxFr 826	LuxFr 1000	8.36	20/11/78 (F67)
Capital Rendinvest	LuxFr 1381	LuxFr 1000		
	1/4/78 High	31/3/79 Low	1/4/76 High	31/3/79 Low
Rendinvestment	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 914	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 1170
Capital Rendinvest	LuxFr 1423	LuxFr 1305	LuxFr 1423	

Creditanstalt—your partner in Austria for dealing in Austrian Schilling Bonds and International Bonds of Austrian issuers

Selected Austrian Schilling Bonds of Austrian issuers maturity over 5 years

8 % Österreich 1973/B/81	102,-	7.11	7.84	15. 2.77-81
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Why the fur has been flying in the battle for the Bay

Takeover fever in Canada: The Bronfman family yesterday bid for Brascan and Brascan bid for Woolworth, adding to the thrills of the Thomson's and Westons' struggle to acquire the Bay. Jim Rusk, Toronto Correspondent reports on the background to that fight.

A NY TAKEOVER battle as large and as bitterly contested as the one now raging between the Thomson family and George Weston for control of Hudson's Bay Company would attract considerable interest. But this one has developed a special following.

While the men on stage may be businessmen in their principled suits, with cohorts of lawyers and management school whiz-kids in the background, there are also a number of colourful ghosts hovering around. In the case of the Hudson's Bay, the ghosts are the history, book character of the larger part of Canada. The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay, one of the oldest chartered trading companies in the world, received its charter from Charles the Second in 1670 and will see the return of Charles the Third, though under new ownership, no doubt.

Without the Bay, it is safe to say there would be no Canada. It established the British presence to the north and west of the French colonies in North America and its traders took the empire over the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. Its traders were the first white men that many Indians and Eskimos saw

Fur trade

Its trading posts are still found in the North. Indeed, the original one, Fort Rupert, built in 1688 on the trial voyage that convinced the merchants of London to start the company, is still being used, and the Bay still runs its fur auctions.

But from that start in the fur trade, the Bay has grown over the years into one of the largest merchandising organisations in Canada. The post stores grew along with the

Canadian West and are now department stores: the oil rights on the territory the Bay kept when the Government of Canada bought its lands shortly after Confederation are the backbone of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas, a major resource company in which the Bay has a large interest.

The canny Scots traders who ran the Bay were the nucleus of the Canadian business community in the early years of the nation. For example, Donald Smith, who had been a governor (the title the Bay still uses for its chairman) of the Bay, was an early president of the Bank of Montreal and was the man who drove the last spike when the Canadian Pacific railway linked Canada from east to west.

In the 1970s, the Bay has found a new vigour. The headquarters were moved from London to Winnipeg and the company has grown rapidly. Two of its boldest moves came only last year with the acquisition of Zeller's, a Montreal-based junior department store chain, and of Simpsons, a leading Toronto-based department store company, making the Bay the largest non-food retailer in Canada.

Compared with the Bay's three centuries of history, its suitors are upstarts. George Weston traces its history to a bakery started in Toronto in 1883 by George Weston. The company was founded in 1926 by the late W. Garfield Weston, who had taken over the bakery business from his father. Characteristically, the Weston family still owns the block of houses near central Toronto in which Garfield Weston was born.

Characteristically, the block is up for sale. The next generation is up for sale. The next generation set and enforce plans and controls on companies that had largely been allowed to turn in any standard of performance. Bits that did not make sense were sold off, whether profitable or not, and losing operations were pruned, although often only after a strong effort had been made to save them.

Weston now has four main divisions — food processing, food retailing and wholesaling, forest products and fisheries.

The Bay's non-food merchandising and resource operations

ration of Westons is in charge. W. Galen Weston, 39, Garfield's youngest son, now runs the Canadian company. His brother, W. Barry Weston, runs the British, European and South African company business, Associated British Foods, which has no corporate links with George Weston in Canada, although the two businesses, with their bakeries and supermarkets, are similar.

Mr. Weston the younger has done a remarkable job since he came to take the helm in Canada in the early 1970s. His father had assembled, often in secret, a hodge-podge of Canadian subsidiaries, many of them leaders in their markets. But the group's performance had slipped badly.

Today, the company is highly profitable and a highly geared balance sheet has been tightened up to the point where the company's paper is expected to receive an A rating for the first time in years, although the debt to be taken on if the Bay is acquired may put off the day when an improved rating is forthcoming.

Mr. Weston achieved this decade's turnaround with a set of plans taken from the basic textbooks of North American business schools. Tough young executives set and enforce plans and controls on companies that had largely been allowed to turn in any standard of performance.

Bits that did not make sense were sold off, whether profitable or not, and losing operations were pruned, although often only after a strong effort had been made to save them.

The script for the play has been rewritten several times since the Thomson bid was announced on March 1. And even though the Bay's directors announced yesterday that they were recommending acceptance of Thomson's latest, unconditional offer of £337 a share for 17.32m A shares representing some 75 per cent of the Bay's common stock in a bid worth

some

£840.8m, it is still not certain how the play will end. The plot has become more complicated as a result of the Canadian Government's announcement that it hopes to set a temporary injunction against the sale of the Bay. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Sales, Mr. Warren Allmand, has said that the Government would seek the injunction in order to give it time to complete an investigation into the rival acquisition plan.

Federal Combines investigators launched their inquiry into the sale of the Bay after complaints from the Canadian Federation of Independent Businessmen, a group of small businessmen who feel that the Bay's merger with Weston would curtail the competitiveness of the market for many small dry goods that are sold in both grocery and department stores.

While the possible sale has not yet emerged as a major issue in Canada's federal election campaign, it has focused some attention on the weakness of Canadian combines law.

Unlike the U.S., which has strong anti-trust legislation dating back to the first decade of this century, or even Britain

It, too, brought out some public opposition but once again the federal government stood on the sidelines.

It is yet to be seen whether Mr. Allmand's investigation into the acquisition of the Bay, initiated under legislation which gives the Government authority to investigate the effect of the merger on competition but which has never been used to block a deal, is any more than a manoeuvre to get the Minister through the election campaign that ends on May 22. However, Mr. Allmand, who unsuccessfully tried to pass competition legislation in 1978, is known to be keen to try again if the Liberals are returned to power.

One way or another the fur has been flying in this series of old-fashioned takeover battles. Not only have they added spice to an extended bull market on the Toronto stock exchange which has been going up almost without interruption since the beginning of 1978. They have also given economists food for thought. At least some of the major bids seem to reflect a feeling in business that the period of slow growth in Canada may be coming to an end, and that it is best to acquire productive assets quickly before it is too late.

Today's Events

GENERAL
UK: Mr. James Callaghan tours High Peak, Stretford, and Moss Side constituencies; addresses rally in Stockport.

Liberals election manifesto.

Sir Freddie Laker signs multi-million contract for European airbus.

Overseas: Mr. Josip Vrhovec on official visit to Ireland (until April 11).

COMPANY RESULTS

Final dividends: Aберthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement. Aquascutum and Associated Companies. Armitage Brothers. Associated Biscuit

Manufacturers. Astbury and Madeley (Holdings). Britannia Arrow Holdings. Channel Islands and International Investment Trust. Clifords Dairies. Combined English Stores Group. Dickinson Robinson Group. Fothergill and Harvey. Gill and Duffus Group. Hewden-Stuart Plant. Higgs and Hill. S. Jerome and Sons (Holdings). London and Provincial Poster Group. Albert Martin Holdings. Mettoy Company. Minet Holdings. Municipal Properties. B. and I. Nathan. Provident Life Association.

COMPANY MEETINGS

Anglo-International Investments, 20 Cannon Street, EC 12 Beresfords. Buglawton Park Recreational Centre, Congleton, Cheshire, 11. English and New York Trust, 20 Fenchurch Street.

EC 3.45. First Scottish American Trust, Belzize House, West Ferry Dundee, 12. Greenfields, Regent Suite, Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, W. 12. 1M1, Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham, 12. Tace, Essex Hall, Essex Street, WC. 3.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Central Government transactions (including borrowing requirement) for March. London clearing banks monthly statement for mid-March. UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets, reserve ratios and special deposits for mid-March. Provisional figures of vehicle production for March.

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Flexible Finance



Under Sir George Simpson, the 19th Century "Little Emperor" of the Bay, officers of the company met each year to settle the affairs of half a continent.

New product delays leave Glaxo down and waiting

MARGINAL 2.2 per cent growth in trading surplus and a more than £3.5m adverse movement in the net interest figure, left Glaxo Holdings showing a £3.76m decline in taxable profit to £36.5m for the six months to December 31, 1978. Sales by the pharmaceutical, food and medical equipment producer were £15.8m up to £268.2m.

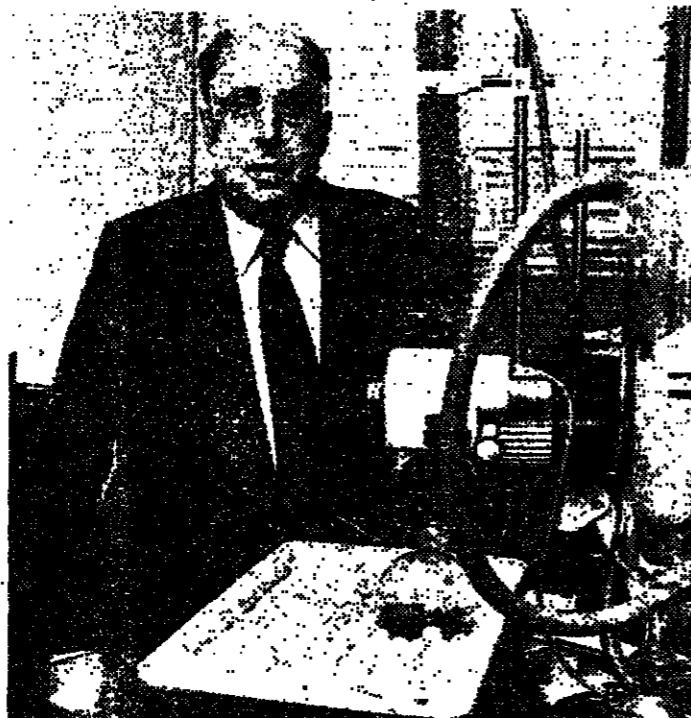
The modest rise in group sales and trading profit is an indication that new products are not yet contributing significantly to results, the directors say. This is because of the lengthy and expensive procedures required by national authorities before permission to market products is given.

In the meantime the company is strengthening its manufacturing and research resources for future expansion.

Interest charges were higher this time because of acquisition costs in the U.S. In addition, without substantial gains on selling Gillette in 1977, investment income was lower, leaving a net interest outgoing of £2.3m, compared with a credit of £3.36m.

Tax little changed at £20.4m (£20.8m), left earnings per 50p share at a stated 18.5p (22.1p), or 17.6p (21p) fully diluted. The net interest dividend is stepped up to 5p (4.5p)—a net final of 6.9p was paid for 1977-78 from profit of £88.4m (£87m).

Group sales, excluding wholesaling by Vestric, were 4.1 per cent ahead at £197m with the overseas content up 4 per cent at £184m and a 6 per cent advance to £43m in the UK. Exports



Mr. Austin Bide, chairman of Glaxo, photographed in the Greenford's laboratories.

were 10 per cent better at £64m. In the UK Vestric's turnover was 11 per cent up at £80.5m.

Changes in foreign exchange rates continued to put pressure on export profit margins and reduced the sterling value of overseas subsidiaries sales by £8m and their profits and net

HIGHLIGHTS

Lex looks at Glaxo where first-half profits have slipped back, competition is high and the benefits from important new drugs are proving slow to come through. Rowntree Mackintosh has produced only modest growth for 1978—a year of intense competition from major competitors like Cadbury Schweppes and Mars. Lex also looks at two international subjects. In Canada there was a dramatic turn of events when Brasean put in a bid for the U.S. Woolworth company only to find itself on the receiving end of a partial bid from the Bronfman and Patino families. In Germany Bayer is last of three major chemical groups to report on 1978, and Lex sums up the picture. Elsewhere, Hamro Life produced better than expected figures and the price shot up 65p to 580p yesterday and Blackwood Hodge reports higher full-year profits.

Aurora boosted by strong second half

A GOOD second half performance, giving profits of £2.66m against £1.45m boosted Aurora Holdings, general and precision engineer, to a record £4.31m pre-tax for 1978 compared with a previous £2.51m. Turnover was more than doubled from £31.1m to £66.8m.

The directors state that the integration of Samuel Osborn acquired in June, 1978, has been successfully completed and all divisions are now contributing to profits. Its contribution came to £1.4m, after interest charges on the acquisition cost.

Pre-tax figure was struck after interest of £1.55m (£624,000) and subject to tax of £1.21m (£908,000) leaving an attributable balance of £2.55m against £1.45m.

Earnings are shown as 18.5p (22.1p) per 25p share on increased capital and the dividend is lifted from 5.25p to 5.98p net with a final of 4.16p.

• comment

The major factor in Aurora's buoyant 1978 performance is

the inclusion of recent acquisitions. Samuel Osborn, the special steels group, added £24.1m to sales and £1.4m to pre-tax profits, though it also squeezed overall margins and led to the jump in interest charges. Coltness, acquired in July, 1977, contributed £750,000 to group profits in its first full year (£350,000 for five months of 1977). But there was also some organic growth from traditional operations, particularly from the fastener division and the quality machine tools distribution activities. The group now has its sights firmly set on expansion via the U.S. and will shortly announce the acquisition of a small U.S. company. The shares, at 99p, are on a p/e of 5.6 and a yield of 9.3 per cent which is a relatively undemanding rating given the spread of group activities and the strengthening of the balance sheet that followed the sale, for £4.5m, of Osborn's South African subsidiary earlier in 1978.

Louis Edwards to close meat canning side

Only four months after he returned to profitability after several years of losses, following a major reorganisation and the disposal at the end of 1977 of the Ferrograph subsidiary.

While the fan division of Trufo had another good year and the valve activity improved progressively, aerospace was held back by a lack of orders for delivery during the year. This position has now greatly improved, the directors add.

Telehoist, after a buoyant start to the year, suffered from a fall-off in demand from export markets in Africa and the Middle East.

ACS Engineering, acquired towards the end of 1977, started to show the benefits of a re-organisation concentrating engineering, production and sales activities on one site.

In Australia, the company felt the combined effect of a reorganisation of production to accommodate the new marine fittings range and delays in the introduction of new car models.

The group believes that the closure will save some £750,000 of assets, both fixed and current, net of all liabilities, which will be sold to strengthen the group's cash position.

Edwards has had a chequered career throughout the latter part of the decade and in December announced its worst ever pre-tax losses (£254,000) for the first six months of the year.

Greenbank advances to £2.28m

TAXABLE PROFITS OF Greenbank Industrial Holdings, engineer and property developer, rose from £2.16m to £2.28m in 1978, on higher external sales of £11.1m against £8.33m.

At halfway, the directors said the improved trading profit, up £838,981 to £801,773, indicated another satisfactory year without the additional benefit of substantial foreign exchange gains.

Tax for the year took £1.2m (£1.2m) in provisions released £23,385 this time. The net total dividend is effectively raised from 1.1863p to 1.335p per 10p share, with a 6.65p final. A one-for-four scrip is also proposed.

There is an exchange loss this time of £24,506. Pre-tax profits included investment income of £61,568 (£151,822), and were struck after depreciation of £14,536 (£98,827).

£1.53m for Collett Dickenson

A £0.23m downturn in the second half at Collett, Dickenson, Pearce International, advertising agency, left 1978 pre-tax profits at £1.53m against £1.39m. Turnover, including associated companies, was well ahead from £43.65m to £55.47m.

After tax for the year of £960,492 (£925,758), net profit came through at £566,444 compared with £490,501. The net final dividend is stepped up from 3.2686p to 3.65p per 10p share, with a 1.9119p final.

The extraordinary debit of £236,293 (£474,743) includes a loss of £163,591 (£70,810) arising on disposal and revaluation of shareholdings in subsidiary and associated companies including Kvh Holding BV.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF Brown & Sharpe International Capital Corporation

50% Guaranteed (Subordinated) Debenture due March, 1988.

Pursuant to the provisions of the indenture dated March 1, 1968, as amended, relating to the 50% guaranteed debenture, notice is hereby given as follows:

The Board of Directors of Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company (The Guarantor) has declared a cash stock dividend, payable March 26, 1979, to shareholders of record of the Company as of March 1, 1979.

A portion of the shares of Common Stock delivered in payment of the stock dividend were treasury shares, and were converted into the conversion price of the aforementioned Debenture. However, the directors of the Guarantor have undertaken to convert the Common Stock in payment of the stock dividend requires an adjustment of the conversion price.

Accordingly, the conversion price at which the above-mentioned Debenture may be converted into shares of Common Stock of the Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Company has been adjusted pursuant to the indenture, effective March 3, 1979, to £1.90 per share of Common Stock.

BROWN & SHARPE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL CORPORATION

Competition slows down Rowntree profit growth

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Date	Corre-	Total
	payment	of	spending for
		div.	last
Aurora	4.42	—	5.9 5.28
Aurora & C. Black	3.39	—	5.39 4.9
Blackwood Hodge	1.28†	1.07*	2.26 1.94*
Brant Hedges	1.04	0.95	— 2.51
Collett Dickenson	1.91	1.71	3.65 3.27
Darc Estates	0.5	0.5	0.75 0.5
Darc Estates	3.21‡	2.92	5.03 4.58
Edinburgh Inv.	4.4	3.55	7.8 6.75
Glaxo	5	4.5	11.4
Greenbank	0.69	0.61*	1.34 1.2*
Hamro Life	17.8	14.6	22.8 20.22
Hughbank Dist.	0.55	0.5*	— 1.61*
Joseph Holt	1.76	1.51	2.43 2.17
Huntleigh	0.39	0.34*	0.76* 0.67*
London Pavilion	1.35	1.25	2.15 2.13
Manor National	0.67§	—	— 0.67
Richards (Leicester)	2.75	2.6	3.55 3.17
Rowntree	8.5	5.42	8.17
Wilmot-Breeden	3.24	3.44	3.08

Dividends shown per share per year except where otherwise stated.

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increase by rights issue. ‡ Includes additional £0.035p for 1977 now payable. § Equal to 3.2p gross taking into account dividends already paid by Manchester Garages and Oliver Ric.

The chairman says that the current year did not start well, a total of £52m for fixed and working capital from its own resources. With the benefit of the £26m rights issue, the net cash position improved by some £17m.

See Lex

EQUITY AND LAW

Mr. P. D. Cox, chairman of Equity and Law Assurance Society points out that although the company still wrote a substantial amount of business on young lives, there had been, as anticipated, a reduction in certain types of business following the change in commission structure. But these had been more than replaced by other business and the company now

wrote a wider spread. It was intended to expand the range of unit linked products with the launch of a linked individual pension policies.

Dorada finishes ahead at £1.6m and makes good start to year

AFTER £550,000 against £406,000 at six months, taxable profits of Dorada Holdings, motor vehicle distributor and engineer, finished 1978 up from £1.16m to £1.6m on turnover of £59.77m compared with £51.06m.

Mr. Thomas Kenny, chairman, says that despite the long drivers strike and the bad weather, the group did better in the first quarter of the current year than last year, and at this stage appears encouraged.

"I expect we shall continue our progress," he adds.

On capital increased by last September's rights issue gross earnings per 25p share, based on operating profits of £1.44m (£1.05m), are stated as 30.2p.

The dividend is increased by 10 per cent from 4.57525p to 5.03p with a net final payment of 2.21p, compared with a forecast 3.28p. Also proposed is a one-for-four scrip issue.

Pre-tax figure for the year included an exceptional credit of

able to do very much more than hint at what it might make in a year free of industrial disruption, for supplies were down by a third on 1977 levels, or the equivalent of some 300 new vehicles each month.

Mr. Kenny says that the group's two main suppliers, Ford and Vauxhall were both affected by strikes in 1978 and as a result the group lost much profit.

All subsidiaries in the motor group section traded profitably especially Croft, in Scotland. And further improvements are being made to the dealership in Huddersfield.

Most of the credit for the 56 per cent increase of the upturn in the overall supplies there is attributed to a fall in interest charges following the September rights issue and a recovery by the engineering division. Wicksteed was largely responsible for the engineering upturn, with the Bo'ness foundry probably cut losses by £40,000 last year and is on target to return to profit this time.

Relocation of the Ford dealership network in Scotland is now mostly over but prospects for the current year rest heavily on the level of new registrations and unbroken vehicle production.

On a fully taxed historic p/e of 7.8 and a yield of 7.9 per cent the shares, up 8p yesterday to 98p, are not over-expectant.

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10 YEARS OF GROWTH
Group Profit before Tax

1969 £2,961,000
1970 £4,195,000
1971 £4,650,000
1972 £4,055,000
1973 £5,656,000
1974 £8,463,000
1975 £11,658,000
1976 £12,711,000
1977 £16,629,000
1978 £18,172,000

Turnover £273,430,000
1978 figures unaudited.

BLACKWOOD HODGE

From 28th April, 1979 copies of the 1978 Annual Report may be obtained from the Company Secretary, Blackwood Hodge Limited, 25 Berkeley Square, London W1A 4AX.

NOTICE

Blackwood Hodge reaches £18.2m in mixed year

MAINLY DUE to a recovery in Europe and a sharp increase in North America, which offset falls in some other areas, profit before tax of Blackwood Hodge, the earthmoving equipment group, increased by 9.3 per cent to £18.2m in 1978. This is in line with the forecast of not less than £15m made at the time of the July 1978 rights issue.

Sales amounted to £273m against £232m, the drop being entirely due to exchange rate movements. The pre-tax margin on sales improved from 5.9 per cent to 6.6 per cent reflecting a changed sales mix which reflected improved gross margins and a reduction in interest costs down from 5.3m to 5.8m.

In the UK sales reached a record £82.5m (£71.8m) but trading profits were little changed at £10.42m (£10.1m) due to lower margins. A turnaround from a loss of 20.9m to a profit of £1.06m in Europe reflects benefits of reorganisation and management changes over the past two years.

Sales in Africa were reduced from £68.5m to £59.87m because of customers' financing and cash flow problems in some areas and political problems in others. Profits were down from £11.73m to £9.49m. In Australia a drop in sales, mainly due to exceptional orders in early 1977, and increased costs, left profits down from £5.72m to £5.28m.

Although trading conditions in North America remained difficult, turnover improved in local currency terms and profits advanced from £2.17m to £2.8m.

On current trading the directors feel that the general outlook for 1979 remains uncertain but they believe it should be a satisfactory year.

Basic earnings per 25p share for 1978 are shown at 10.92p (10.2p) and at 10.11p (9.22p) fully diluted. As promised the final dividend is 1.28244p, on capital increased by the rights issue. Adjusting for the strip issue last April this effectively raises the total from 1.938p to 2.28p.

A fourth strip issue, this time on a one-for-ten basis, is also proposed. The directors expect to recommend a 10 per cent increase in current year dividends.

Blackwood Hodge's results show the usual variation between geographical areas; this time it is Canada that has returned to a sensible level of profitability, while a £1m turn-round in the European operation has made up for a difficult year in Africa. But volume sales are down, and growth is not going to come easily. A welcome refinancing has reduced short-term debt but borrowings as a whole are slightly up, as the very tight stock control seen in 1977 seems to have relaxed a little. However, the increase in equity stemming from the 1978 rights issue means that the overall gearing, although still very high, will have been reduced.

In Nigeria results for 1978 reflect the group's 60 per cent interest in Blackwood Hodge (Nigeria). Since the year-end the equity participation has been reduced to 49 per cent and Blackwood Hodge (Nigeria) will be treated as an associate in group accounts as from January 1, 1979. A provision of £1.6m has been made for the reduction in the group's interest in this company.

Although trading conditions in North America remained difficult, turnover improved in local currency terms and profits advanced from £2.17m to £2.8m.

Full year 1978 result comprised trading profits of £134.702 (149.772) from continuing businesses, reduced by losses of £19.070 (£52.390) from its former subsidiary, Dauncroft.

Although 1979 started with considerable disruption caused by the lorry drivers' strike and the bad weather, the directors say the company has made a better start than in 1978.

Tax charge takes £82.380 (£9.450). There were extraordinary credits of £13.178 (£30.262), including £13.580 (£9.240), tax credits, leaving net profits ahead from £28.184 to £45.980.

Earnings per 25p are shown

well up from 0.22p to 4.78p, while the maximum permitted net dividend of 2p (1.8168p) has already been paid, on increased capital.

Profits in both woolen spinning and dyeing and finishing improved considerably in the second half of 1978, the directors report.

They plan to use the increased capital to develop both companies in woolen spinning to improve machinery for fine yarns and to finance more expensive raw materials; in dyeing and finishing it reduces fuel costs and to keep abreast of latest machinery developments.

Dares Estates up to £0.29m

The directors of Dares Estates, builder and property holder, report pre-tax profits up

from £18,000 to £290,000 in 1978, on higher turnover of £3.95m, against £2.47m.

At halfway, the surplus jumped from £8,689 to £102,354 and the directors anticipated improving profits for the year.

There is a tax credit for the year of £9,000 (£40,000). Stated earnings per 10p share increased from 1.32p to 3.85p and the net total dividend is stepped up from 0.5p to 0.75p with a 0.5p final.

The directors say the dividend reflects the group's continuing progress, and they are confident this will be maintained.

Pre-tax profits were struck after debenture interest of £45,000 (£47,000) and loan stock interest of £88,000 (£89,000). Extraordinary credits totalled £104,000 (£91,000).

Highland Dist. up to £1.92m

ON TURNOVER well ahead from £21m to £29.74m pre-tax profits of Highland Distilleries advanced from £1.71m to £1.92m in the half year to February 28, 1979.

The directors say sales of "Famous Grouse" in the UK continue to show good growth; developments of an un-market brand take time and investment, they add, and in a number of overseas countries there are promising signs for the future. Sales of new and mature whisky are at a comparable level to last year.

Tax for the half year took £188,000 (£16,000). The net interim dividend is effectively raised from 0.5p to 0.55p—last year's total payment was equivalent to £1.612p on taxable profits of £4.88m.

The depreciation charge amounted to £182,000 (£168,000). Comparisons have been adjusted in accordance with SSAP 15.

Comment

Highland's continuing strong sales figures — up 42 per cent in the first half — reflects further market penetration for the company's "Famous Grouse" brand of whisky. However, little of this is showing up in profits yet because of the higher costs associated with promoting it in England and Wales. On top of increasing production at the Glenrothes distillery, the company's "Famous Grouse" brand anticipation of future demand and also financing duty payments on current sales. This, at a time when interest rates jumped markedly, has resulted in a sharp increase in charges and profits only show a rise of just over 12 per cent, much in line with expectations. This pattern is likely to continue in the short term as borrowings rise. The outlook for the full year is for profits of around £4.8m (£4.1m) which, taking a line through the interim tax charge, puts the shares, at 86p, on a prospective p/e of just under 6 while the yield is 2.8 per cent.

Joseph Holt rises to £802,505

An increase in taxable profits from £753,625 to £802,505 in 1978 is reported by Joseph Holt, brewer and wine and spirit merchant.

At the interim stage, profits were up from £334,215 to £354,561.

Tax for the year took £373,829 compared with £355,091 previously. The net final dividend is lifted from 1.9142p to 1.7378p per 25p share, making 2.4278p (2.1742p).

The directors say the dividend reflects the group's continuing progress, and they are confident this will be maintained.

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Rowntree Mackintosh

Preliminary Announcement

52 weeks ended 30 December 1978

	1978 £'000	1977 £'000
Turnover	562,705	469,212
Trading Profit	51,728	46,935
Interest paid less Investment Income	6,658	5,442
Profit before Taxation	45,070	41,493
Taxation (Note 1)	8,118	9,120
Profit after Taxation	36,952	32,373
Minority Interests and Preference Dividends	1,704	1,675
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders before Extraordinary Items	35,248	30,698
Extraordinary Items (Note 2)	999	388
	34,249	30,310
Ordinary Dividends		
Interim 4.50p per share (1977 2.75p)	2,430	1,188
Proposed Final 8.50p per share (1977 5.4175p)	4,590	2,340
	7,020	3,528
Added to Reserves	27,229	26,782

Notes
1. No provision is made for deferred taxation in respect of timing differences as there is reasonable evidence that such deferred taxation will not be payable in the foreseeable future. This is a change in accounting policy and conforms with the Statement of Standard Accounting Practice for Deferred Taxation. All comparative figures have been adjusted accordingly.
2. Extraordinary items consist principally of an adjustment on the translation of overseas net assets into sterling.
3. Earnings per share amount to 70.3p in 1978 and 68.5p in 1977, calculated on the profit, before extraordinary items, attributable to the Ordinary Shareholders and take into account the Rights Issue made in 1978.
Subject to Shareholders' approval the proposed final dividend of 8.50p per share will be paid on 11th July 1979 to Ordinary Shareholders registered at the close of business on 12th June 1979.

Summary Group Balance Sheet

	1978 £'000	1977 £'000
Funds Employed		
Share Capital	29,687	24,284
Reserves	186,663	129,202
Minority Interests	13,206	12,476
Net borrowings	22,236	38,866
	251,792	204,828
Use of Funds		
Fixed Assets	146,415	119,584
Investments	5,768	5,781
Stocks and Debtors, less Creditors	99,609	79,463
	251,792	204,828

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

The Rowntree Mackintosh Group continued its growth in 1978. Sales, profits and capital expenditure were again — in real terms — the highest in the Group's history.

As we anticipated, competition was particularly fierce in 1978. We were, nevertheless, able to increase or hold our market shares in all our major markets and export sales at £61.3m maintained our position as the U.K.'s largest exporter of confectionery.

An important aspect of the year's performance — both for shareholders and for those who work together in the Group around the world — is that these record results were achieved while pursuing an essentially long term policy of building up the strength of our operations in the market place — in consumer values, advertising and new line development — and in buildings, plant, and machinery. These two forms of investment are closely allied and complementary and both are essential if the consumer's loyalty is to be secured. We believe these policies to be the best way to maintain the Group's progress.

Our continued progress also owes much to the skilful and strenuous efforts of many thousands of people in Rowntree Mackintosh communities around the world. Shareholders will, I am sure, wish to join the Board in thanking them for their own personal investment in the future of the Group.

Finance
Sales at £563m were 20% up on 1977; greater volume and higher prices both contributed to the increase. Sales outside the U.K. were 47% of the Group's total sales, the same proportion as in the previous year.

Profits at the trading level increased by 10% to £51.7m. Pre-tax profits, after somewhat higher interest charges, rose by £3.6m to £45.1m an increase of 9%. The effect of severe competitive conditions is reflected in the fall in trading margins from 10% to 9.2%.

During 1978 we continued our programme of heavy expenditure on fixed assets spending a gross total of £41.6m against £23.8m in 1977. The expenditure covered a wide range of projects around the world and included increases in capacity, improvements in productivity and efficiency, amenities and computers and communications development. Some £26m was in U.K. locations and £

Amalgamtd. Power £1.4m purchase

Amalgamated Power Engineers, the manufacturers of steam turbines, air and gas compressors, gear pumps and valves, has made an agreed bid worth £1.4m for Lee Howl, a pump maker.

The offer, which is being made by Hill Samuel on behalf of Amalgamated, gives £6 in cash or £6 nominal of Amalgamated's convertible unsecured debentures 1988.

The debentures will be repayable at the option of the holder at any time, on giving 30 days notice, and in any event not later than December 31, 1988.

They will carry the right to convert into ordinary shares of 25p each in Amalgamated on the basis of one Amalgamated ordinary share for every £1 nominal of debentures.

For each Lee Howl 6 per cent (now 4.2 per cent net) £1 cumulative preference share, Amalgamated is offering 70p in cash.

Lee Howl is a public unlisted company which was established in 1889.

For 1978 Lee Howl reported taxable profits of £228,000 on turnover of £6.45m. In the balance sheet net tangible assets stood at about £1m.

LMI EXTENDS AGAIN

London and Midland Industries, which yesterday announced that further acceptances had increased its share in Caledonian Holdings to 44.3 per cent, has extended its offer for the company until April 17.

This is only half a point above the acceptances it had received a week earlier.

LMI is running neck and neck with rival suitor Comet Radiation Services, which last week increased its cash offer for Caledonian to just over 174p per share, compared with LMI's 162p. Both companies have made alternate cash and share offers roughly equal to each other.

WILLIAMS & GLYNS

Williams and Glyns Bank is transferring the management of the equity stakes it holds in several companies to Development Capital, the small business group backed by Co-operative Insurance, Electric Investment Trust, the Coal Board Pension Fund, and Commercial Union. Williams and Glyns will

continue to own the shares, but it is likely that it will pass further opportunities for equity investment to Development Capital.

GLOBE STAKE IN GOSFORTH

Globe Investment Trust has bought 6.5 per cent interest in Gosforth Industrial Holdings, the ship repairing, engineering construction and insurance company formed out of the nationalised interests of Swan Hunter.

The bulk of Globe's 1.2m shares appear to have been acquired from Sears Investments which has reported the sale of 1.1m shares.

ELECTRONIC MACHINE

Mr. J. P. Lobbenberg has increased his beneficial interest in Electronic Machine to 475,000 shares (19.38 per cent).

He purchased 50,000 shares on March 29, 25,000 on March 30 and 25,000 on April 3.

MFI APPROVAL

Trading has been good and turnover for the first three months of 1979 was well ahead, not only for the corresponding period last year, but also of our current budgets," Mr. J. W. Seabright, joint managing director of MFI Furniture Centres, told shareholders after an EGM.

At the meeting shareholders voted 80.6 per cent in favour of the proposed group re-organisation.

Official Stock Exchange dealing in the new holding company are expected to begin on June 4.

ACC OFFER UNCONDITIONAL

The offer by Associated Communications Corporation for InterEuropean Properties has been declared unconditional. With shares acquired during the offer period, ACC now has 94.37 per cent.

THORN SALE

Thorn Electrical Industries has sold a subsidiary—Herringshaw Steel—to British Steel Corporation in a deal worth £3.5m.

Herringshaw is engaged in alloy and bright bar steel stockholding. It is to form part of British Steel Service Centres. Williams and Glyns will

continue to own the shares, but it is likely that it will pass further opportunities for equity investment to Development Capital.

The company will continue to trade under the Herringshaw name and existing management.

EXPANSION BY RMC OFFSHOOT

Scottish Aggregates, a subsidiary of Ready Mixed Concrete, has acquired the assets, including all stock, of the sand and gravel division of John Rhind (Farms).

The acquisition has effectively doubled the number of sand and gravel plants operated by Scottish Aggregates and marks its introduction into the Grampian region.

In addition to the five aggregate processing and distribution plants, the purchase includes a pre-cast concrete brick and block factory at Strichen.

Banro to merge Pref. shares

Banro Consolidated Industries proposes to merge its 5 per cent and 7 per cent preference shares into one class of preference share.

It is proposed that the fixed cumulative dividend payable on the new preference share should be of an increased amount of 5 per cent net per annum, with effect from May 1, 1979.

It is intended to capitalise £52,000 from reserves by the issue to second preference holders of 52,000 new preference shares in proportion of two for five.

A circular will be sent shortly to shareholders giving full information on the terms approved by the authorities for the transfer of the group's Indian business to George Williamson (Assam) with effect from December 31, 1979.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. These dates are usually held for the purposes of considering dividends. Official indications are not given. The dates of meetings, half yearly or half yearly and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY

Intertel: William Boulton, M. P. Kent, Smiths Industries.

Forrest: Andrew, Bristol Channel Partnership, Comart, Aquaculture, Armagh Brothers, Associated Biscuit Manufacturers, Astbury and Medway, Associated Industrial Investment Trust, Charles Clifford Industries, Combined English Stores, Dickins and Watson, Dillons, Fisons, Gill and Duffus, Hawden Stuart Plant, Higgins and Hill, S. Jerome, London and Provincial Peat, Anglo Marconi, Merton Properties, Munro Properties, B. and I. Nathan, Provident Life Association of London, Rhodesian Consolidated, Roper, John C. Rubenoid, Selection Trust, John C. Small and Tidmarsh, G. W. Sparrow.

FUTURE DATES

Intertel: Burton Apr. 11 Dunbee-Combes-Mars Apr. 17 Univas Apr. 17

Forrest: Anglo Electric and General May 18 Bank of Ireland May 17 Benford Concrete Machinery Apr. 12 Bifurcated Apr. 17 British (M.S.) Rubber Apr. 18 Clive Discount Apr. 18 Dewhurst (J. J.) Apr. 18 Dugdale Apr. 26 Elsick, Refining Apr. 26 Hoveringham Apr. 19 Northern Engineering Apr. 19 Pearson (S.) Apr. 19 Ready Mixed Concrete Apr. 19 Reddick Executive Apr. 19 Smith, Morris and Trust Apr. 25 Smith St. Aubyn Apr. 25 Amended.

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MINING NEWS

Pancontinental offers to go underground

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

DETERMINED to find a way of overcoming environmental objections to the development of its uranium deposit in Australia's Northern Territory, Pancontinental has suggested to the Arbitration Commission in Sydney that an inquiry could be held regarding the deposit by underground methods as opposed to open-pit operations.

Jabulina is the Northern Territory uranium project most strongly opposed by the Aborigines because of its size and fears about the ecological impact of an open-cut mining operation.

Pancontinental says that during the period of preparation of its final environmental impact statement on Jabulina it has reassessed the impact of the project both visually and in terms of the expressed concerns of the affected Aboriginal people. And it has concluded that the alternative of underground mining is both feasible and attractive.

The advantages are: a major decrease in physical disturbance of land areas; elimination of schist and sandstone waste dump; siting of plant facilities well away from the Magela Creek and Aboriginal sites of significance; a much smaller tailings pond; because much of the waste would be put underground; no release of water into Magela Creek; and reduced levels of noise, dust and radon gas emanation.

Pancontinental adds that the detailed examination of underground mining methods has included the sending of a study group of consultant experts in mining, industrial and radiation safety fields to North America where more than half the existing uranium mines are worked by underground methods.

Underground operations tend to be more costly than those on the surface but still yield good profits at far less attractive deposits than that at Jabulina. A more important factor as far as Pancontinental is concerned, is the need to avoid any further delay in making a start to mining.

The ball now appears to be back in the ecologists' court and finalisation of the Jabulina environmental impact statement will follow continuing consultations with the federal and NT governments and the Northern Land Council which represents local Aboriginal landowners.

Jabulina is 65 per cent owned by America's Getty Oil.

Pancontinental shares were at 40p, down 70p yesterday.

THE U.S. customer, which takes some 45 per cent of the uranium production of Mary Kathleen mine in Australia, has been considering whether it was free to make further payments for the material in the light of the preliminary injunction granted to Westinghouse Electric Corporation in the U.S. and trust proceedings brought against Sydney's Mary Kathleen by the Aborigines.

The directors point out in the annual report that regular mine production came to a standstill in February and that the now buoyant metal prices should have a "positive impact" on earnings if uninterrupted production is maintained.

Because of the earlier shutdown, the previously expected final termination of operations at the nearly worked-out mine has been put back from end-1979 to the second half of 1980.

Meanwhile, the big zinc-lead mine at Navan which is 75 per cent-owned by Turquoise Corporation in which Northern has a 9.5 per cent shareholding, is expected to reach its planned annual production rate this year of 400,000 tonnes of zinc concentrates and 70,000 tonnes of lead concentrates.

Backed by strong finance quoted investments were worth £324.4m (£14.3m) at the end of 1978—Northeast is looking for new opportunities in the natural resources field. Energy related investments are being given priority and a transatlantic oil and gas exploration deal has been entered into with Mission Oil and Gas, a new private company. Northeast shares were 15p down at 35p yesterday.

MINING BRIEFS

AMERICAN CANADIAN CORPORATION: Canadian mining output for March (in metric tons): Republic of South Africa: Bithlous—Anglo American Coal Corporation, 151,120; Zinc—Natal 33,004; Anthracite—Natal Anthracite 81,335; Rhodesia—Wanki Colliery (coal) 176,897, (coking) 15,494; Swaziland—Mempulu Colliery 25,761; Group total 3,191,873.

KILLINGHALL TIN—Output for March 31 tonnes (February 31 tonnes).

Tricentrol

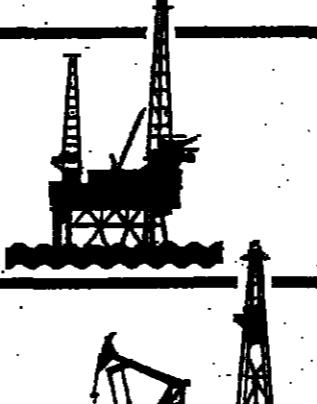
A British international resource exploration company with wide ranging commercial activities

Dynamic growth continues

- Pre-tax profits doubled at £8,000,000 for the year ended 31 December 1978
- UK and North American oil and gas reserves re-appraised at £128,000,000
- Tricentrol acts as operator in new North Sea Block award
- Strong performance by UK industrial groups

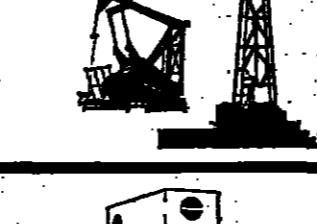
Tricentrol OIL CORPORATION

The rate of production from the Thistle Field continued to increase during 1978 reaching 2,649,515 barrels (85,468 barrels of oil per day) in December. With full water injection the field is expected to reach plateau production of some 200,000 barrels per day. A conditional offshore petroleum production licence for Block 208/23, in the area North West of the Shetlands, has been awarded to a consortium of companies with Tricentrol as operator.



Tricentrol OILS

In North America Tricentrol Oils Ltd. had a good year being especially successful with our exploration projects. 86 oil and gas wells were completed out of a total of 136 wells in which the Company participated. We have also maintained our land bank of 420,000 acres in Canada and the USA; the future net cashflow of these and other North American assets was re-appraised at 31 December 1978 at £73,320,000.



Tricentrol INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

The UK industrial groups put in a strong performance during 1978. Our businesses are well established in their respective fields of activity—Automotive, Travel, and Wholesale Trading in home improvement, garden and heating supplies—and the economic environment was generally favourable for them until this country's industrial troubles worsened in the last quarter. In such conditions, the five operating groups achieved results substantially better than in 1977.



Tricentrol BV

Our new regional operating company on the Continent had a difficult year in 1978. The pre-tax loss of £395,000 reflects, on the one hand, the difficulties experienced in the market place by our heating and air-treatment businesses and, on the other hand, the costs incurred to ensure that the base for our future expansion is well founded.



Tricentrol BV

Results at a glance—Year ended 31 December 1978

	1978 £'000	1977 £'000	Percentage Increase
Turnover	141,335	84,912	+49 %
Profit before taxation	8,011	3,637	+121 %
Profit after taxation	5,685	2,147	+86 %
Retentions	5,020	2,147	+100 %
Shareholders' funds	30,928	14,733	+29 %
Earnings per ordinary share:			
Basic	14.9p	8.1p	+79.5%
Fully diluted	14.1p	8.6p	+7%
Dividends per share (net)	1.675p	1.329p	+27 %
Net asset value per share	26.3p	6.8p	+31 %
Discounted value of Thistle Field Reserves as at 31.12.78:	£25,000,000		
Discounted value of North American Reserves as at 31.12.78:	£73,320,000		

Tricentrol

Copies of the 1978 Report and Accounts are available from the Group Press and Public Relations Department, Tricentrol Limited, Cape House, New Broad Street, London EC2M 1JS.

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MINING NEWS

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BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

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Comparative output figures for the group are shown in the accompanying table.

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The directors point out in the annual report that regular mine

Housing side helps Bryant Manor National to £2.6m at halfway

INCLUDING associates, company profits of £335,000, against £150,000 losses last time, resulted in a £682,000 net—last year's final profit was £534,000 for the half year to November 30, 1978, and the directors are confident of record results for the year.

Pre-tax profits for the 1977-78 year were £2.25m (£2.68m) for the group before an exceptional debit of £2.15m.

The directors say that the sale of an investment property in one of the associates was largely responsible for the increased net contribution.

Turnover was little changed at £5m against £5.2m.

Private housing activities continued the success achieved during the last year and made an encouraging start, the directors say.

Despite difficulties with more sales, sales have been buoyant and this, together with reasonable margins, is largely responsible for the improved group results.

The company has also been successful in continuing to expand and increase the land bank.

On the contrasting side of the business, has done little more than break even in the first half, but has suffered adversely during the winter, the directors say.

However, the margins on new work obtained are improving and which the company should expect next year.

After the six months' tax charge of £1.09m (£1.76m), earnings are shown as 7.52p per

turnover and the surplus of dealing property disposals.

Bryant's interim operating profit amounted to £1.7m which, with some £500,000 from associates in the full year, strongly suggests that a new annual profit record is in sight.

Bryant takes the view that a long land bank is essential in the housebuilding industry and will be spending around £5m this year to achieve a holding worth almost five years production.

The ensuing stock level would, assuming full year profit of around £4.5m, increase the deferred tax balance to around £7.4m.

On the eventual adoption of SSAP 13, the resultant level of reserves would start to support a scrip issue.

The shares climbed 50p yesterday to 66p where the yield, assuming a 10 per cent dividend increase this year, is 6.3 per cent.

Woodside finds more gas

AUSTRALIA'S Woodside Petroleum, yesterday reported encouraging shows of gas in the top of the objective section in the group's Pueblo wildcat on the North West Shelf, reports Don Lipscombe from Perth.

The well is being deepened to locate the vertical extent of the

Manor National profit over £1m

IN ITS first year of operation, Manor National Group Motors reports 1978 pre-tax profits of £1.1m, compared with £0.6m for the previous period.

Turnover of the company, which arose from the merger last year between Manchester Garages and Oliver Rix, amounted to £47.18m, against £37.18m.

The report has intensified the focus on interest on this area of offshore Australia, where the Pueblo, the dynamically-positioning Sedco 472 drilling ship is approaching the critical depth for the Zeewulf wildcat, with Esso operator for the BHP-Esso partnership.

The results comprise those of Manchester Garages for the year to December 31, 1978 and of Rix for the 15 months to end 1978.

Comparatives are for the combined accounts of the two companies for the years to December 31, 1977, and September 30, 1977, respectively.

Trading profits before interest reached £1.64m, compared with £1.23m. Tax takes £153,000 (£26,000) and there were extraordinary debits of £261,000 (£80,000).

Stated earnings per 20p share were 4.5p and as forecast, the dividend is 0.67p, which together with the special interim already paid by Manchester Garages and Rix represents an annual gross of 3.2p.

The directors say the merger has been successfully completed with very little disruption, although some rationalisation will need to take place.

Commenting on future trading, they say the increase in interest rates coupled with the serious industrial disputes has not made the start of the current year an easy one.

Deducting prior charges at nominal value, net assets are shown at 329.6p (266.7p) per share.

turnover and profits from the Crewe/Nantwich sale, it should be able to achieve favourable results in 1979 with the full benefit of the merger coming from 1980 onwards.

In accordance with the conditions imposed by the merger concerning the disposal of the Crewe/Nantwich depots, provisional letters of contract have now been exchanged with a prospective purchaser, a substantial British public company and completion should take place soon.

This sale will realise funds of nearly £1m and will reduce interest charges considerably.

Urgent attention is being given to the replacement of these businesses to give a more profitable return from the capital.

Under current dividend restraint, the maximum dividend that may be declared is limited by the highest dividend cover in the relevant period which, for newly listed companies excludes pre- flotation years, but does include the actual years of flotation.

Hambro Life was floated in 1976, and the ratio of actual surplus to dividends paid was 1.74. The current dividend is based on this value and the Treasury has given its consent.

The directors have transferred from this surplus in the long term assurance fund to the profit and loss account only that amount required to meet this dividend. The remainder has been retained in the long term assurance fund.

Thus £4.8m has been transferred to cover the cost of dividends and £2.5m has been added to the retained actuarial surplus bringing the amount to £11m.

A final dividend of 4.4p net lifts the total from 6.75p to 7.8p per £1 deferred share, absorbing £2.162,160 (£1,871,100).

Deducting prior charges at nominal value, net assets are shown at 329.6p (266.7p) per share.

Hambro Life £8m surplus: raises dividend by 17.7%

A 31 PER CENT increase in the after-tax actuarial surplus is reported for 1978 by Hambro Life Assurance. The end-year actuarial valuation disclosed a surplus of £8.3m, compared with £6.3m at the end of 1977.

A final dividend of 17.75p per share is recommended bringing the total to 23.8024p net, an increase of 17.7 per cent over the 1977 dividend of 20.2112p.

Under current dividend restraint, the maximum dividend that may be declared is limited by the highest dividend cover in the relevant period which, for newly listed companies excludes pre- flotation years, but does include the actual years of flotation.

Hambro Life was floated in 1976, and the ratio of actual surplus to dividends paid was 1.74. The current dividend is based on this value and the Treasury has given its consent.

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The remainder has been retained in the long term assurance fund. Thus £4.8m has been transferred to cover the cost of dividends and £2.5m has been added to the retained actuarial surplus bringing the amount to £11m.

But on top of that, there is £1m accumulated surplus standing idle, though there would be a tax penalty on transfer to the profit and loss account. The share price jumped 6.3p to 580p on the results to yield 6.3 per cent gross.

It is also proposed to split the company's shares, each 20p share being split into 5p shares.

Profits at the six months stage were £138,000 (£135,000).

The year's earnings are stated as 18.6p (16.3p) per 25p share and a final dividend of 5.39p lifts the total from 4.9p to 5.39p net.

Tax for the period took £160,000 against £156,000 and the balance was boosted by an extraordinary credit of £28,000 (nil).

Richards (Leicester) profit fall

PRE-TAX profits of Richards (Leicester), structural and mechanical engineer, iron-founder, fell from a record £660,780 to £524,570 for 1978 on turnover of £5.81m against £5.71m.

At the halfway stage directors reported profits down from £323,000 to £242,000.

After tax for the year of £256,899 compared with £320,897, net profits came out at £267,650 (£339,889), giving earnings of 13.4p (17p) per 25p share.

The dividend is stepped up to 4.2515p net with a final of 2.7515p; last year's total is boosted to 3.8472p with an additional payment of 0.035p.

Dividends will cost £85,800 (£76,880), leaving £181,880 (£263,009) retained.

Mitchell Cotts Group Limited

Unaudited Interim Results for the Six Months ended 31st December 1978

	Six months ended 31/12/78	Six months ended 31/12/77	Year ended 30/6/78
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	125,182	124,741	263,597
Group Profit before Interest and Taxation	4,466	6,094	13,229
Interest	1,999	1,843	3,447
	2,467	4,451	9,782
Group share of profits of associated companies	1,201	131	454
Group Profit before Taxation	2,668	4,582	10,236
Taxation	1,458	2,463	5,362
Group Profit after Taxation	1,210	2,118	4,874
Minority interests	216	400	958
	994	1,719	3,916
Extraordinary items	339	(63)	(288)
Net Profit Attributable to Mitchell Cotts Group	1,333	1,656	3,628

The results for the six months ended 31st December 1978 are, as forecast, below those for last year.

As foreseen in the last Chairman's Statement, the main element in the reduced profits arises from a lower level of activities in the field of engineering projects both in South Africa and Australia; additionally, in common with many other companies, we have been faced with industrial unrest in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, as well as adverse weather conditions in Europe.

Although we would expect the second half of the year to be more satisfactory than the first, the adverse conditions continued into the third quarter and the decline in profits for the year is likely to be greater than was expected at the time of my last Statement.

An unchanged interim dividend of 0.65625 pence per share has been declared on the ordinary shares and will be paid on 4th June 1979 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 30th April 1979.

P. P. DUNKLEY,
Chairman.

MC Mitchell Cotts Group Limited
Cotts House, Camomile Street, London, EC3A 7BJ. Telephone: 01-283 1234

For a copy of the interim statement please contact the Secretary

Montfort (KNITTING MILLS) LIMITED

Select points from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. M. J. Knott, and from the report and accounts for the year ended 31st December 1978.

* Turnover up — by 9.4% to £10.1 million.

* Profits up — net profit before taxation higher by 65% an all time record.

* Dividend up — an increase of 12% on ordinary share capital expanded by one third as a result of the recent rights issue.

* Investment up — expenditure on new plant and machinery was the highest ever and the capital programme will be maintained at least on the same scale for 1979.

Despite some lack of buoyancy in the consumer market, Montfort is maintaining an upward trend. Current bookings are the highest on record and the Directors confidently expect a further substantial rise in profits for 1979, justifying another increase in dividends.

Group Results	1978	1977
Turnover	£10,078,004	£9,210,722
Exports	£1,378,788	£1,424,703
Profit before taxation	£528,058	£318,180
Profit after taxation	£363,567	£184,059
Dividends per share (net)	3.925p	3.490p
Earnings per share	15.932p	7.989p

The Society's investment income was £114.5m of which £14.2m arose in Holland; this was the first time the total exceeded £100m. Its excellent growth in recent years is shown as follows:

Annual premiums	Single premiums	Total premiums	
£m	£m	£m	
1974	43.7	7.4	51.1
1975	56.4	13.7	70.1
1976	67.5	11.4	78.9
1977	74.6	16.3	90.9
1978	84.2	30.3	114.5

Over the year the yield on long-term British Government securities rose by 2% to a little over 13%, and as a consequence the market value of the Society's UK fixed interest stocks fell by £38m. However there were rises in the values of our equities and, especially, of our properties, so that the net depreciation of the assets of the Society was £28m.

New money for the Society in the year amounted to £85m of which £73m was in respect of United Kingdom business. This latter was invested in broadly the same proportions as our existing assets. The new property investment in the United Kingdom was spread between industrial property, shops and farms. In January 1978 the Society increased its holding in Grandview Properties Limited from 49% to 75% and its results are therefore included in the Consolidated Accounts. This company, formed in 1972, has investments totalling £20m in properties, mainly in Belgium, Germany and Holland. These investments are financed by borrowings, which are partly guaranteed by the Society. All the completed properties are substantially let, and I believe that the company has a sound portfolio which will prove profitable.

The invested assets of the Society amounted to £760m, of which £55m was in respect of business in Holland. In addition Equity & Law (Managed Funds) Limited had assets of almost £60m. The investment funds of this company have an excellent performance record and we intend to secure increased business.

Investment Income
The Society's investment income was £56.4m, more than double the figure for 1975. This satisfactory increase arose from substantial increases in equity dividends and property rents and also because during the last three years £180m was added to our holdings of fixed interest stocks in the United Kingdom, almost all of which yield more than 12%.

Bonus
With effect from the 1st January 1979 we introduced a new form of terminal bonus for individual business in the United Kingdom under which the rate of bonus depends on the year in which the policy commenced and the bonus is allotted on both the sum assured and the reversionary bonuses attaching to it. We consider that this new system provides a more suitable basis, especially when investment conditions have been changing substantially. As a consequence policies now becoming claims receive higher bonuses than they would have done under the old system; the results compare favourably with those of similar policies issued by other offices.

We have also increased the rates of bonus on

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

Remington Products, Inc.

has acquired the

Sperry Remington Consumer Products Division

of

Sperry Rand Corporation

The undersigned acted as financial advisor to Remington Products Inc. in this transaction.

Chemical Bank International Group

February 27, 1979

INVEST IN 50,000 BETTER TOMORROWS!

50,000 people in the United Kingdom suffer from progressively paralysing MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS — the cause and cure of which are still unknown — HELP US BRING THEM RELIEF AND HOPE.

We need your donation to enable us to continue our work for the CARE and WELFARE OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS sufferers and to continue our commitment to find the cause and cure of MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS through MEDICAL RESEARCH.

Please help — send a donation today to:
Room F.1, The Multiple Sclerosis Society of G.B. and N.I.,
4 Tachbrook Street, London SW1 1SJ



1978 Annual Report

Canadian Pacific Limited

Highlights: The past year was the best in the Company's history.

Consolidated net income reached \$340.9 million, an increase of \$93.9 million over 1977. Per Ordinary share, earnings amounted to \$4.72, or \$1.31 more than in the previous year.

Dividends on the Ordinary stock were raised to \$1.10, from 95¢ in 1977. Of the 1978 dividends, 55.5¢ was the proceeds of dividends from Canadian Pacific Investments Limited, up 7¢ over 1977.

Almost every operation of the Company shared in the earnings growth, with CP Investments and transportation each providing approximately half of the increase over 1977. Income from CP Investments reflected that company's net gain of \$23.8 million on the sale of its holding of TransCanada PipeLines shares. In addition, earnings from iron and steel, oil and gas and forest products were all up substantially, and most other major operations contributed to the year's improvement. The notable exception was hotels, whose losses increased. In transportation, airline operations provided the largest increase, rail earnings in both Canada and the U.S. were at record levels, and the loss on tanker/bulk shipping operations was reduced. Miscellaneous income rose due to increased interest income and a gain on sale of an aircraft formerly leased to CP Air.

During the year CP Investments further broadened its earnings base through acquisition of Syracuse China Corporation of Syracuse, New York. Syracuse manufactures and markets chinaware and related products mainly for the food service industry in the United States and in Canada.

For 1979, planned capital spending of the Canadian Pacific group of companies exceeds \$1 billion for the first time. The amount is so high partly because of inflation, but mainly because of the growth the Company has achieved and the strong commitment it has to future growth. Projects comprising this large investment program include the creation of new capacity as well as replacement of the old. All are being undertaken with a view to strengthening the earning power of the subsidiaries and the parent company. Beneficial effects of the program will be widely felt throughout the economy as jobs are generated or sustained — both immediately and in the future — in many regions of the country.

The outlook for earnings in 1979 is that they will be at about the same level as in 1978. Given reasonable economic growth in the Canadian and U.S. economies, earnings from operations could increase enough to make up for the likely absence of a gain equivalent to that in 1978 from the sale by CPI of its TransCanada PipeLines shares. Changes — either upward or downward — in the value of the Canadian dollar would have an impact on the year's results. The outcome of labour negotiations could also have an important influence; the list of operations affected, although shorter than it was last year, includes such a key sector as the railway. A settlement with the

Companies and Markets

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

U.S. acquisition underpins Bayer

BY GUY HAWTHORN IN FRANKFURT

BOOSTED BY the first time consolidation of the results of Miles Laboratories, of the U.S., the West German chemical group Bayer has managed to lift 1978 pre-tax profits by 13 per cent to DM 1.24bn (\$314m).

Even so, Bayer's figures — like those of its rivals BASF and Hoechst — show signs of a steady revival in the West German chemical industry's performance. Group world sales rose by 6.5 per cent from DM 21.38bn to DM 22.94bn (\$12.1bn) with Miles contributing 5.4 points of the increase.

A breakdown of world performance figures shows further

improvement in the final quarter of the year. Fourth quarter world sales were up by an average of 7.4 per cent from DM 5.19bn in comparable period of 1977 to DM 5.57bn — a movement also noticeable in the BASF and Hoechst returns.

Business was better overseas than at home for the West German parent concern although earnings and sales figures were depressed by the weakness of the dollar on the foreign exchanges. Sales of Bayer rose by a meagre 0.4 per cent from DM 9.33bn in 1977 to DM 9.71bn.

According to the report, domestic sales fell back from the

previous year's DM 4.22bn to DM 4.07bn, while exports rose from DM 5.71bn to DM 5.91bn. Exports as a proportion of total turnover therefore increased further from 1977's 57.5 per cent to 59.2 per cent.

Again the returns show a substantial improvement in the final quarter's exports. These were up 7 per cent on the comparable period of 1977 to DM 1.36bn to DM 1.45bn. In contrast, domestic sales fell back 1 per cent from DM 975m to DM 965m.

Pre-tax profits rose at a far slower rate than the world figures. They increased 3.5 per cent to DM 776m, after dropping

13.5 per cent in 1977 to DM 750m.

The executive board said in the report that that volume throughout in the final quarter produced improved capacity utilisation at the parent's plants, but sales prices declined further. They particularly affected exports as a result of the strong decline in the value of the dollar against the D-Mark.

At the same time, overheads — in particular, personnel, energy and freight costs — rose further. A 1.2 per cent decline in the labour force was more than offset by a 4 per cent increase in personnel costs.

Despite considerable government support for loss-making contracts in the shipbuilding and offshore divisions, RSV expects to incur large losses on these activities. The group is unable to maintain this extensive capacity from its own resources, it said in a statement.

The company's provisional operating result worsened by around DM 67m in 1978 to produce a loss of DM 77.8m (\$33.9m). After extraordinary items, principally the book profit on the sale of company housing, the pre-tax loss was DM 55.9m. Net losses after a tax receipt of DM 1m and a loss of DM 1.8m on participations were DM 59.7m against DM 49.6m.

The final accounts will be drawn up when the Government has decided on a solution for the company's problems, it said.

The Dutch cabinet last week said it expected to announce a decision in about six weeks' time. However, after a 12-hour strike last Friday at Verolme Dok en Scheepshouwrij by the 2,800-strong workforce, talks between the Government, unions and RSV's management were brought forward to today.

Much of the 1978 loss was caused by the poor results of the shipbuilding and repairing sectors.

Agreement was reached with the Government and the unions on a large number of restructuring measures in 1978. These include the merger of two ship-repair yards in Amsterdam, the closure of the shipbuilding division of F. Smit, a reduction of capacity at RSV Zware Apparatuur and embankments in the Rotterdam repair yards.

Restructuring costs were DM 123.6m of which DM 50m were drawn from existing provisions and DM 70m covered by part of the Government's special DM 160m aid package approved in March 1978. A further DM 30m of this special aid has been used to cover losses on ship-owning activities. RSV will call a special shareholders' meeting on May 2 to approve a plan for the Government to take a 40 per cent shareholding in RSV's capital at a cost of DM 60m.

Increase in profits at Thomson-CSF

PARIS — Thomson-CSF, the parent company of the electronics arm of the Thomson-Brandt electrical group, has posted a net profit for 1978 of FF 158.3m (\$36.5m) against FF 123.1m in 1977.

The company intends to pay a net dividend for 1978 of FF 7.80 a share, as in 1977, but the dividend will be paid on a capital increased by some 14.5m shares during the year.

Thomson-CSF said that its 1978 net result was achieved after making FF 20.7m of depreciation allowances, against FF 19.1m in 1977.

Sales of the parent company totalled FF 86.95m (\$1.6bn) up 15.5 per cent from the FF 6.11bn in 1977. Orders at the end of the year totalled FF 17.5bn, against FF 15bn.

Thomson-CSF did not publish its consolidated accounts, but said that the group's sales amounted to FF 11.93bn, compared with FF 9.94bn in 1977.

The 1978 total includes sales of Licences Techniques et Telephoniques, which Thomson-CSF controls during the comparable period. On a basis, sales rose by 12 per cent.

AP-DJ

Earnings slide at Conti-Gummi

BY OUR FRANKFURT CORRESPONDENT

WEST GERMANY'S largest tyre maker, Continental Gummi-Werke, suffered a sharp slide in net profits last year from DM 20.2m to DM 3.8m (\$2m). For the seventh year in a row, therefore, shareholders will receive no dividend.

Turnover of the parent company increased by 2.4 per cent to DM 1.56bn. Group sales, on the other hand, rose by 3.1 per cent to DM 1.92bn.

Opel aims to increase the pressing, bodymaking, and engine production facilities in Kaiserslautern, in south-west Germany, and the workforce there will rise by some 3,000 to 7,000 people as a result of this and other investments.

The announcement of these plans comes shortly after Daimler-Benz revealed that it would spend around the same amount at its Bremen factory. Since the start of 1978 the VW labour force in Germany has risen by 6,000 to 110,000.

Italian chemicals group incurs further losses

BY PAUL BETTS IN ROME

ANIC, Italy's second largest chemical company in terms of turnover, controlled by the state ENI Hydrocarbons Agency, has reported losses of L17.80m (\$212m) last year compared to a loss of L18.80m in 1977.

In a statement, the group said the 1978 losses included some L20bn as a consequence of the liquidation of Italproteine, the joint venture in Sardinia between British Petroleum and Anic.

The two partners decided to liquidate the venture following repeated delays by the Italian health authorities to give the go-ahead for the plants' production of bioproteins for use as animal feed on a commercial scale.

Despite the cutback in losses, Anic said debt interest totalling L8.80m last year, or the equivalent of 9 per cent of the company's net turnover continued to distort the chemical group's balance sheet together with the sustained losses of its troubled fibres activities.

Anic's turnover during the first two months of this year increased by 40 per cent compared to the same period last year following both an increased volume of sales and higher prices. Concurrently, however, raw material costs had increased sharply.

Anic has now launched a major group reconstruction programme, and some L600m have already been earmarked to its effect.

However, in view of the company's continuing heavy losses, Anic in what has become a familiar ritual in Italian corporate finances, intends to propose at a forthcoming shareholders' meeting to write-down the company's share capital to cover last year's loss and subsequently increase it to L258.2bn.

Counter-offer for Yema

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

INDICATIONS of French Government disapproval of Jaeger's bid for Yema, the Besancon-based watchmaking group, emerged yesterday in a counter-offer for the company from Jaz, the group put together with the help of Government finance.

The Jaz bid is roughly equivalent to Jaeger's, which is proposing a share and cash deal to give it a 35 per cent stake in Yema. It is the second time that Jaz has made approaches to Yema, which it would like to bring into its group in its efforts to create a significant French force in the industry.

Yema has so far responded coolly to the Jaz offer. In a joint statement with Jaeger, it says that talks are well advanced for the merger as soon as it receives official approval. A formal go-ahead from the authorities is necessary to cement the deal with Jaeger because it is 41 per cent-owned by VDO of West Germany. Up to now this approval has not been forthcoming.

Jaeger said yesterday that it remains optimistic about its chances of bringing off the deal with Yema. The company claims to be better placed than Jaz because it can bring considerable technical know-how based on its car instrumentation division to the assistance of Yema.

The idea is to help the Besancon group to expand its activity in electronic watches. The affair has aroused fresh rumours that VDO may decrease its shareholding in Jaeger.

Although the suggestions have been in the air for some time, it is now being said that the French Government would be more willing to hasten the approval of the Yema merger if there was such a rundown in the German company participation.

The bank boosted its total lending business by more than 11 per cent in the whole of last year to DM 49.24bn, while non-bank customer deposits advanced by 8 per cent to DM 43.3bn.

Dresdner Bank has already declared an unchanged DM 9 dividend for last year, following an increase in earnings of the parent bank to DM 223m (\$1.6m) from DM 203m. Dr. Friderichs said that operating profits were up by 7 per cent in 1978 — no figure was given — which was second only to 1975.

The balance sheet total rose by 13 per cent last year to DM 70bn, with a 13.7 per cent improvement in the consolidated figure to DM 61.6bn. Including unconsolidated banks in the group, such as Dresdner Bank International in Luxembourg, overall business volume showed a 16 per cent gain to DM 137bn in 1978.

The bank's surplus on interest earnings over interest costs went up by 8.5 per cent to DM 1.52bn though actual rate margins slipped from 2.5 per cent to 2.4 per cent. Dresdner said these were too low, in view of rising expenses and the need for extra risk provisions as business volume grew.

Elaborating on the bank's foreign plans, Dr. Friderichs said the Madrid and Hong Kong representative offices would be upgraded into full branches next month. Dresdner had opened a securities representative office in Tokyo, in addition to its branch there, and also planned a Melbourne office.

Closer to home, Dresdner last month purchased control of Vevre Morin-Pons, the small Lyon-based French bank. In addition, it will expand its domestic branch network by opening around 20 new offices, mainly in medium-sized and small German towns.

The bank's surplus on interest

Heavier loss from Dutch shipbuilder

By Charles Batchelor
in Amsterdam

Holland's largest shipbuilding company, Rijn-Schelde-Vereine (RSV), incurred a loss of Fl 58.9m on the pre-tax level for 1978 and sees no immediate respite from these weak trading conditions despite substantial government support. In 1977, losses totalled Fl 146.5m.

Despite considerable government support for loss-making contracts in the shipbuilding and offshore divisions, RSV expects to incur large losses on these activities. The group is unable to maintain this extensive capacity from its own resources, it said in a statement.

The company's provisional operating result worsened by around Fl 67m in 1978 to produce a loss of Fl 77.8m (\$33.9m). After extraordinary items, principally the book profit on the sale of company housing, the pre-tax loss was Fl 55.9m. Net losses after a tax receipt of Fl 1m and a loss of Fl 1.8m on participations were Fl 59.7m against Fl 49.6m.

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Higher dividend from Swire Pacific

By HUGH PEYMAN IN HONG KONG

SWIRE PACIFIC, one of Hong Kong's leading trading companies, raised its net consolidated 1978 profit by 75 per cent to HK\$324m (US\$65m). This was mainly due to a 68 per cent profit increase by Swire Properties and the strong performance of Cathay Pacific Airways, which benefited from high load factors, good yield and the strength of currencies in many of the countries in which it operates.

Swire raised its "A" share dividend by 11 cents to 33 cents making a total payout of 45 cents for the year on capital raised by a one-for-four bonus issue against 22 cents in 1977. The final dividend on "B" shares also rose 50 per cent to 6.6 cents for an annual total of nine cents.

After its substantial 1978 growth, Swire, which besides its property and airline activities has interests in trading, hotels, engineering and ship repairing,

said that growth in 1979 would be slower, as a result of the general economic background. However, the company believed both earnings and dividends would increase in the coming year.

* * *

THE HONG KONG Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTR) has signed a US\$320m 10-year loan with a syndicate led by Manufacturers Hanover. The loan which is not guaranteed by the Hong Kong

Government, is split into two tranches. For the first seven years the loan bears interest at 0.75 per cent above London Interbank Offered Rates (Libor) while in the final three years interest will rise to 0.875 per cent above Libor.

The MTR has also renegotiated a US\$400m loan signed in February 1978. The interest margin has been cut from 1 per cent over Libor to 0.75 per cent for the remaining nine years.

Advance at Straits Steamship

By H. F. Lee in Singapore

GROUP POST-TAX profit at Straits Steamship Company, a subsidiary of Ocean Transport and Trading of the UK, rose 14 per cent to \$8.1m (US\$4.6m) for 1978. At the pre-tax level, profit, however, rose by 29 per cent to a record \$15.8m.

The group suffered from an abnormally high tax charge of \$7.1m against \$4.6m previously, as a result of its inability to offset losses in certain subsidiaries against taxable profits in others, and of lower earnings from tax-exempt shipping operations.

Group operating profit, which excludes the results of associated companies and interest charges, rose by 12 per cent, provided they satisfy the Government that they are complying with high technology exports requirements.

Since Union Carbide has decided to take advantage of the new middle point, it has planned

Union Carbide India to expand in high technology areas

By K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

UNION CARBIDE India, the subsidiary of Union Carbide of the U.S., has completed plans for expansion in areas of high technology and exports in order to be able to retain a majority foreign holding of 50.9 per cent. This level is now permitted under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) to companies wishing not to reduce their foreign holding to 40 per cent—provided they satisfy the Government that they are complying with high technology exports requirements.

Union Carbide has decided to take advantage of the new middle point, it has planned expansion and modernisation of petrochemical plant in Bombay at a cost of Rs 4bn (about \$500m) over a three-year period. It also expects to commission its mica-based pesticide project

as part of its new operations—accounted for Rs 44.4m. Some 500 tonnes of electrolytic manganese dioxide were exported to South East Asian countries.

Union Carbide earned a pre-tax profit of Rs 91.4m (\$11.3m), while profits after tax amounted to Rs 50.4m compared with Rs 49.6m in the previous year. The better performance lay mainly in the batteries, flash-lit cases, arc carbons and marine products sections.

The dividend is unchanged at 16 per cent for the third year running.

Exports during the year rose to Rs 53.7m from Rs 50.8m in the previous year. Of this, shrimps—Union Carbide has diversified into deep-sea fishing

operations. The company has, in addition, plans to use offshore gas from oilfields in the western continental shelf for its plants.

According to the company's annual report, an investment of Rs 337m has been made in specified high technology and export areas. This is about 76 per cent of its total investments since FERA became effective.

In 1978 the company's sales rose by 4 per cent to Rs 11.1bn (\$1.4bn) despite a suspension for four months of its chemical and plastic plant operations in Bombay. Sales of all its products, with the exception of chemicals and plastics, have risen.

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Sharp upturn at Esso Malaysia

By Wong Sulong in Kuala Lumpur

ESSO MALAYSIA BERHAD reported a sharp upturn in performance last year, with after-tax trading profits rising to 23.1m ringgit (US\$10.5m), compared with 6m ringgit in 1977.

In line with the good results, the company is increasing its final dividend to 35 per cent, consisting of 10.33 per cent exempted from tax under the provisions of the Pioneer Industries Act and 24.67 per cent of taxable dividend. This brings total dividends for the year to 45 per cent (of which 20.33 per cent is tax exempt), compared with 25 per cent tax-exempt

dividends for 1977.

Mr. R. J. Kruizinga, the Esso Malaysia chairman, attributed the performance to three factors, namely the signing of a new and more profitable oil supply contract with the National Electricity Board since August last year, continued growth in refining and sale operations, and a foreign exchange gain of 4.8m ringgit arising from the depreciation of the U.S. dollar.

The company had also obtained Government approval to revalue its land and buildings, resulting in a surplus of 7.9m ringgit.

The company's refinery at Port Dickson processed 13.4m barrels of oil last year, a 12 per cent increase, while sales rose by 0.7m barrels to 14.4m barrels.

Ammonia output increased 12 per cent to 48.8m tonnes and was an important contributor to profits.

Matsushita sets bond terms

TOKYO—Matsushita Electric Industrial Company and underwriters have agreed to set the coupon rate of the Y50bn (\$233m) non-mortgaged convertible bonds at 4.4 per cent a year, a Matsushita spokesman said.

They also decided that the conversion price will be Y738. The issue date is April 28. The face value of the bonds is Y100 and the purchase value of a bond is Y500,000, the spokesman added.

Lead underwriters are Yamaichi Securities, Nomura Securities, Nikko Securities and Daiwa Securities.

AP/DJ

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

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April 10, 1979

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6 Duke of York Street, London SW1 6LA

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Early Wall St. reaction on interest rate fears

Indices

NEW YORK-DOW JONES

	Apr. 6	Apr. 5	Apr. 4	Apr. 3	Apr. 2	May 30	1979	Since Compt'n
						High	Low	
• Indust'l	975.89	977.30	981.88	982.35	982.18	977.88	987.00	1051.75
H'me B'nds	84.69	84.66	84.62	84.65	84.61	84.63	84.65	84.65
Transport.	104.00	102.22	101.85	102.25	102.17	104.08	102.88	111.73
Utilities	104.84	104.07	104.84	104.15	103.82	104.15	104.84	104.84
Trading vol. (000s)	54,710	54,500	54,411	54,511	53,528	54,640	50,145	50,145
• Day's high	884.01	low	871.88					

Mar. 30 | Mar. 23 | Mar. 16 | Year ago approx.

Ind. div. yield % 5.74 5.75 5.80 6.16

1979 Since Compt'n

High Low High Low

1979

Cocoa at 14-month low

By Richard Mooney

London. COCOA futures prices fell to their lowest levels for 14 months yesterday at disappointment at the latest U.S. demand figures, published on Friday, continued to depress the market.

Dealers also thought the strength of sterling had tended to encourage the fall which pushed July cocoa down to \$1,665.5 a tonne at the close.

Fundamental considerations in the cocoa market have been "bearish" for some time but until last week dealers had failed to breach support levels at a little over \$1,600 a tonne.

Producers selling eventually pushed nearby prices below the \$1,600 mark, however, and the lower levels were quickly consolidated when the U.S. Chocolate Manufacturers' Association announced that January/March cocaobean grindings were 3.5 per cent below the figure for the first quarter of 1978.

Traders noted there was some underlying support yesterday, however, which they attributed to reports that pod rot was affecting the Brazilian crop.

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In Accra the Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board said main crop purchases in the 26th week of the 1978-79 season (ended April 5) totalled 306 tonnes, bringing the cumulative total so far this season to 246,615 tonnes, reports Reuter.

Danger as Britain scraps potato import ban

By Christopher Parkes

London. BOWING BEFORE a recent ruling from the European Court of Justice, the British Government lifted its ban on imports of maincrop (old) potatoes at midday last night.

The Common Market Commission, in a flurry of activity, put import charges on new potatoes sent from Cyprus to Britain, scrapped plans to raise duties on tomatoes from Spain and banned imports of apples from Chile.

Raising the potato ban has laid the British market open to the potentially depressing impact of supplies from Holland, Belgium and France.

Prices depressed for much of the current season have recovered lately following the disposal of surpluses.

If the open freights encourage a heavy flow of potatoes across the Channel the market for home-grown produce could be hit hard and the cost to the Government of maintaining the guaranteed price could rise sharply.

Traders did not expect any sudden flood of potatoes, but prices in Britain at the moment could prove attractive to enterprising shippers.

UK farmers are currently earning up to \$90 a tonne for best quality potatoes. The price in Scotland goes up to \$100, while in Holland potatoes

bagged for export are selling at \$52.

Belgian farmers are earning \$50 at most, French \$53, and West Germans between \$36 and \$41.

Even allowing for shipping costs, estimated at \$25 a tonne, the price differential could well prove tempting.

Following pressure from Britain and resistance from Italy, the Commission in Brussels has agreed to allow Cyprus to send new potatoes to the UK at preferential duty rates. Until May 15 the duty will be charged at only 40 per cent of normal levels.

The reduction is retroactive and will apply to potatoes shipped from April 1, fruit trade sources said. The campaign is now expected to start for further reductions to apply from mid-May to the end of June.

Last Friday the Commission announced a new countervailing duty on tomatoes imported into the Community from Spain. In Britain the levy was imposed last year and raised import prices 4p a pound.

According to the National Federation of Fruit and Potato Trades, however, the duty has been scrapped.

The charges were raised following an unusually heavy flow of tomatoes from Spain into France last week which pushed prices down and raised protests among French growers.

Rather than pay the extra charges, the Spanish exporters are understood to have reduced their shipments "voluntarily" thus easing the pressure on EEC producers' prices.

Margaret Van Hatten writes from Brussels: the Commission has decided to ban imports of apples from Chile to the Community between April 25 and August 15 following Chile's refusal to reduce shipments voluntarily.

Commission officials estimate that by April 25 Chile's apple exports to the EEC for this year will have reached 40,000 tonnes, the unofficial "voluntary" quota allocated in negotiations last week between the Community and its five main southern hemisphere apple suppliers.

During these talks, the other four participants reluctantly agreed to cut back their shipments. But the Community, which still has a large apple surplus left over from last year's bumper crop, feared that Chile's refusal to participate might undermine this agreement.

At the end of February EEC apple stocks totalled 1.5m tonnes, the highest since Britain joined the Community, and 40 per cent higher than at the same time last year.

The stock in Britain was 83,000 tonnes compared with 41,000 tonnes.

Strike at copper mine to continue

By Our Commodities Staff

THE SURPRISE rejection of a new pay offer by workers at Noranda's mine in Gaspé, Canada, boosted copper prices on the London Metal Exchange yesterday afternoon.

Most traders had been expecting acceptance and an end to the six-month-old stoppage at the mine following a settlement last weekend at Canadian Copper Refiners and Noranda Metals.

Cash wirebars closed \$8.25 higher at \$1,049.25 a tonne and three months rose \$9.75 to \$1,049.25. Cash cathodes gained \$5.25 a tonne and three months \$5.50, both closing at \$1,046.50.

The Gaspé workers, on strike since last October, voted to reject the latest offer and held out for their demands for parity with the workforce elsewhere in the Noranda group.

The price, strong in market trading reflecting an increase in the Penang price at the weekend, lost ground later in the morning when the decline in LME warehouse stocks turned out to have been less than expected.

The continuing strength of sterling also helped to stem the increases, traders said. Three months standard grade tin closed \$10 a tonne lower at \$1,110 a tonne and cash metal gained \$25, closing at \$7,400.

Stocks of copper in LME warehouses fell 7,025 tonnes last week to 247,255 tonnes. Tin reserves fell only 190 tonnes to 1,530 tonnes.

Lead stocks rose 500 tonnes to 18,250 and zinc fell 3,075 tonnes in line with expectations to 68,150 tonnes. Aluminum holdings increased 75 tonnes to 14,000 tonnes and silver reserves dropped 290,000 troy ounces to 20,970 troy ounces.

MAURITIAN AGRICULTURE

Sugar alone not enough

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE ECONOMY of Mauritius, based on sugar since the crop's introduction by the Dutch in 1639, is being diversified.

Despite the current production target of 800,000 tonnes of sugar by 1980, compared with present output of 700,000 tonnes, the country is finding it difficult to make ends meet.

The sugar industry employs more than 30 per cent of the population and the crop covers 92 per cent of the total area of cultivated land. At the height of the world boom in 1974, sugar represented 53 per cent of total gross national product, but this fell to 30 per cent by 1977.

Among the sugar producing nations Mauritius is considered to have organised its marketing policy cleverly. It was quick to join the Yaoundé Convention in 1971 and was a leading member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries' protocol on sugar which was annexed to the Lomé Convention, signed in February 1973.

It was granted a considerable sugar quota to supply the EEC yearly with 500,000 tonnes, the largest consignment from any of the ACP suppliers.

At present this quota is earning around £220 a tonne, compared with the remainder of the Mauritian production sold on the world market at £110 a tonne or less.

However, this goes mainly to America and Canada, traditionally supplied by Mauritius under an old agreement which is still honoured. The sugar was making money. They now realise that new enterprises must be taken on as an adjunct to their main crop.

Molasses may be converted into alcohol for rum or perfumes, or even produce alcohol substitutes for petrol.

It may also be fed, with by-product cane tops, to cattle to produce meat and milk.

Surplus cane waste—bagasse

—may be made into particle

board, Bagasse, burnt as fuel for the vast factory boilers, also produces electricity, providing in 1976 36 Kwh per tonne of sugar or 25m units of electricity for the national grid.

Lack of organisation in marketing produce has led to a wide differential between producer prices and market prices. Facilities for processing and storage have been set up by companies involved in freezing, drying and canning, but production and throughput are still low.

Poultry farming has been the greatest success in livestock production. Output is now 2,800 tonnes a year and annual consumption has grown to three kilos a head.

The pig industry recently came to grief through lack of co-ordination between production and marketing policy cleverly. It was quick to join the Yaoundé Convention in 1971 and was a leading member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries' protocol on sugar which was annexed to the Lomé Convention, signed in February 1973.

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Main elements of rubber pact agreed

By Brij Khinaria in Geneva

AN INTERNATIONAL natural rubber agreement is to be concluded under an accord of principle reached here yesterday among the main rubber-producing and consuming countries.

More work must be done before the pact can be signed, but the likely agreement's main provisions have now been agreed along the lines of suggestions made last week by Mr. Peter Lai of Malaysia, chairman of the rubber conference, which began here 10 days ago.

Under the accord so far a total buffer stock of \$550,000 tonnes, including 150,000 tonnes in contingency stocks, will be established. This figure compares with a total stock of 500,000 tonnes sought earlier by the producers and 600,000

tonnes sought by the U.S.

The world price of rubber would be stabilised around a reference price level of \$10 a kilo. Buffer stock managers will be free to intervene if they wish when the actual price moves by 15 per cent around the reference price.

They will be obliged to intervene when the price moves by 20 per cent.

Under the buffer stock mechanism, the managers will buy natural rubber when prices plunge and will sell when prices rise too strongly.

The financial requirement for the agreement is estimated at about US \$420m. One-third of this will be deposited with the Commodity Fund established

under a separate agreement reached in Geneva last month.

Rubber is one of the commodities linked to the Common Fund as part of the integrated programme of commodities being negotiated under auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad).

The agreement on rubber was helped by significant concessions from the U.S. to the rubber-producing countries at the start of negotiations.

The likely provision in the agreement will state that any country has the right to ask for consultations, and the International Rubber Council, which will be created to oversee the agreement, will be free to make recommendations.

This formulation means pro-

Foot-and-mouth outbreak over

By OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

UNIONS representing British leather workers have shelved plans to enforce a unilateral ban on hides and skins exports while awaiting the outcome of high-level talks in Brussels.

Escalating prices this year have threatened the existence of some British tanneries and trade unions have threatened action to prevent the export of hides.

Mr. John Smith, the UK trade secretary, put the case for restriction of exports to an EEC

committee last week but the committee, while expressing sympathy for the UK plea, said it required further information before any action could be taken.

Though they are disappointed at the delay the National Union of Footwear, Leather and Allied Trades, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Municipal and General Workers' Union have agreed to hold any planned unilateral action in abeyance until after the next committee session.

Rain boosts grain prices

By Our Commodities Staff

GROWING UNEASE about the future of the new season grain crops boosted futures prices for wheat and barley in London yesterday.

Recent heavy rain in the main cereal growing areas of Britain, followed by flooding in some regions, has further delayed the already late spring sowings.

The land is also too wet to allow farmers to spread fertiliser on winter-sown crops or to fill the gaps caused by winter frosts.

Futures prices of old season barley gained £1.40 while new season prices rose 85p a tonne.

Barley gained £1.40 while new season prices rose 85p a tonne.

Unions shelve plan to block hide trade

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

UNIONS representing British leather workers have shelved plans to enforce a unilateral ban on hides and skins exports while awaiting the outcome of high-level talks in Brussels.

Escalating prices this year have threatened the existence of some British tanneries and trade unions have threatened action to prevent the export of hides.

Mr. John Smith, the UK trade secretary, put the case for restriction of exports to an EEC

committee last week but the committee, while expressing sympathy for the UK plea, said it required further information before any action could be taken.

Though they are disappointed at the delay the National Union of Footwear, Leather and Allied Trades, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Municipal and General Workers' Union have agreed to hold any planned unilateral action in abeyance until after the next committee session.

Malaysia deplores U.S. tin release

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's primary industries minister, Paul Leong said Malaysia is resigned to the fact the U.S. will probably release tin from its stockpile this year, but he believes the release should be done in a manner to cause minimum disruption to the market.

In a statement on the recent approval by the U.S. House of Representatives for the disposal of 350,000 tonnes of stockpiled tin from the General Services Administration (GSA) reserve, Mr. Leong said while he deplored the move, he accepted the U.S. was acting within its rights.

But he said that as the U.S. is a member of the International Tin Council, its disposals of stockpiled tin are subject to article 43 of the fifth international tin agreement which requires that disposals can only be made after consultations with the Council and that due regard be given to the protection of tin producers, processors and consumers against avoidable disruption.

Reuter

PRICE CHANGES

In tonnes unless otherwise stated.

Apr. 9 1979

+ or - Month Ago

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Election pointers stimulate small interest in markets

30-share index gains 6.1 to 531.4 and long Gilts rise $\frac{1}{2}$

Account Dealing Dates
"First Declarer" Last Account
Dealing Days Dealing Day
Mar. 26 Apr. 5 Apr. 6 Apr. 18
Apr. 9 Apr. 19 Apr. 20 May 1
Apr. 23 May 3 May 4 May 15
* "New time" dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

Selective investment support encouraged by the Conservative's lead in the weekend election polls gave stock markets yesterday a firm start to the Easter trading Account. Leading shares began with a resumption of Friday's after-hours' recovery trend and were soon a few pence higher at levels which were subsequently maintained although the volume of business in

of 8,444. The FT 30-share index almost doubled a rise of 3.2 at the first calculation to close 6.1 up at the day's highest of 531.4.

Early demand for investment currency for the purchase of U.S. securities raised rates to around 5 to 30sp.

F. W. Woolworth up

Quietly firm Stores were featured by a late upsurge in F. W. Woolworth which rose 6 to 80p, after 51p, on the announcement that Brascan has made a bid for the American parent company. UDS gained 4 to 114p, after 115p, while Marks and Spencer hardened 3 to 117p to close 53 per cent. Yesterday's SE conversion factor was 0.8122.

Only 816 contracts were recorded in Traded options, the lowest number for over a month. Cons. Gold Fields were the most active issue with 202 trades.

Hambro Life jump

The better-than-expected preliminary profits and share-slashing proposals helped Hambro Life jump 65 in a thin market to 550p and induced firmness in other Life Insurance companies. Second thoughts about last Friday's annual results prompted a gain of 12 to 274p in Pearl, while Equity and Law gained a similar amount to 230p and improvements of 6 and 8 respectively were seen in Prudential, 178p xd, and Legal and General, 183p xd. Matthews Wrightson added 7 to 194p but Minet softened 3 to 188p; the latter's annual figures are due today.

Buoyed by the impressive set of annual figures produced by its associated concern Hambro Life, Hambros Bank fettured the banking sector with a rise of 13 to 253p. Corinthian hardened 2 to 38p, following Press comment and for the same reason Provincial Financial put on to 115p.

Breweries opened the account in a firm mood with Allied rising 2 at 88p and Guinness 5 to 188p. Among Distilleries, slightly improved interim profits from Highland had no apparent effect on the shares which held at 96p. Renewed rumours that Mr. James Gulliver intends to take a stake in the company prompted support and closed 25 better at 375p following the approval of the group's proposed re-organisation. Products which rose 5 to 391p.

A better trend developed in the Building sector with Blue Circle, 348p, and Taylor Wood, 394p xd, rising 8 and 13 in the leaders. Elsewhere, Brown and Jackson featured with a jump of 54p in a limited market to 500p awaiting Thursday's preliminary results. Wethers Bros. advanced 7 more to 127p on news that Marshalls (Marshall Bros.) acquired a 27.8 per cent stake in the company and intends to seek Wethers' recommendation for a bid. Marsha's eased 3 further to 180p. Bryant Holdings responded to the end-of-interim statement with a rise of 4 to 65p, after 63p.

Official markings gave a guide to the general contraction in trade, yesterday's 5,024 comparing with the recent daily average

of a net rise of 11 to 419p. Elsewhere in firm Foods, Cadbury Schweppes continued in demand and added 2 for a three-day gain of 81 to 65p. William Morrison also rose 81 to 157p xd, while Morgan Edwards put on 9 to 129p. United Biscuits closed 5 to the good at 51p following news of the 580m acquisition of the U.S. Specialty Brands.

Trust Houses Forte attracted a good level of business and rose 81 in its ex-share issue form to close at 178p. First-half profits nearly 54m below general estimates brought about a late reaction in Glaxo which fell to 122 down at 530p. Other miscellaneous industrial leaders ended quietly firm with Pickfords particularly notable for a fresh advance of 17 to 387p on further consideration of the group's plan to spend £30m modernising and expanding the insulation division of its Fibreglass subsidiary. Reed International firmed 6 to 180p and Bewater 5 to 197p. Elsewhere, Philip Harris rose 13 to 188p on a resurgence of speculative buying in a thin market, while Office and Electronic rose 14 to 150p xd following speculation concerning the late chairman's 15 per cent shareholding. Weekend Press mention led to rises of between 5 and 8 in Wilkins and Mitchell, 43p, Sharpe Ware, 157p xd and Wim Industries, 65p xd, while buying ahead of next Tuesday's results left Reed Executive 9 higher at 114p.

In a firm Leisure sector, Ulster Television "A" stood out with a Press-inspired rise of 8 to 88p, while London Pavilion and Gashol (Eascom) continued to benefit from the good annual profits and capital proposals, jumping 28 for a two-day rise of 52 to 215p.

Hopes that the long-awaited statement concerning a merger between the Barlow group of companies might soon be made, lifted selected Plantations. Bradwall, with full-year figures due tomorrow, put on 8 to 71p, while Sungai Krian firmed a similar amount to 105p. Cherascom added 4 to 58p xd.

Among Publishers, W. N. Sharpe put on 9 to 197p while A and C Black firmed 3 to 165p the latter on increased preliminary profits. More O'Farrell encountered speculative demand and rose 6 to 126p, after 129p.

Bolstered by the trend towards lower interest rates, Properties started the new Account firmly.

Press comment attracted buyers to British Land which rose 3 to 75p and to the 12 per cent Conversion, 240p, 14 points higher at 228p. Great Portland Estates added 6 to 232p and Stock Conversion improved 4 to 350p following the approval of the MEPC.

Oil shares passed a fairly lively session, particularly secondary issues where week-end Press mention stimulated buying interest in Tricentral, which advanced 19 to 212p xd and Oil Exploration 14 higher at 252p.

Among the leaders, British Petroleum edged up to 104p following a rise of 10 earlier at a peak of 1200p.

Engineering leaders traded on a quiet firm note and still benefited from last week's good preliminary results. GKN firmed 8 to 276p xd. Occasional support lifted John Brown 10 to 553p, while Hawker Siddeley hardened 4 to 254p awaiting tomorrow's annual statement. Elsewhere, Aeronautics responded to the good results with a rise of 8 to 99p, while trading statements were also responsible for firmness in Blackwood Hodge, 3 up at 59p.

Reporting preliminary profits at the higher end of market expectations and a 100 per cent cash issue, Rowntree Mackintosh touched 422p before settling for a

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INDUSTRIALS—Continued

INSURANCE—Continued

PROPERTY—Continued

INVESTMENT TRUSTS—Cont.

FINANCE, LAND—Continued

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MINES—Continued

AUSTRALIAN

OILS

1979	Low	Stock	Price	+	%	Mr.	Y.M.	Y.P.	1979	Low	Stock	Price	+	%	Mr.	Y.M.	Y.P.		
38	26	15th Gen. Inc.	95	32	55	Esta. & Agency	908	0.46	2,612	2,757	115	96	Brit. Ind. & Gen.	110	3.80	205	14	1.4	
130	122	Envi. Ind. Inc.	122	122	100	Esta. & Gen. Corp.	95	1.02	1.2	4,325	2,95	124	143	Brit. Inv. Corp.	157	4.92	206	14	1.4
122	122	Enviro. & Law	122	122	100	Esta. Prop. Inc.	95	1.02	1.2	4,325	2,95	124	143	Brit. Inv. Corp.	157	4.92	206	14	1.4
120	120	Enviro. & Law	120	120	100	Enviro. Inv. Corp.	95	1.02	1.2	4,325	2,95	124	143	Brit. Inv. Corp.	157	4.92	206	14	1.4
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